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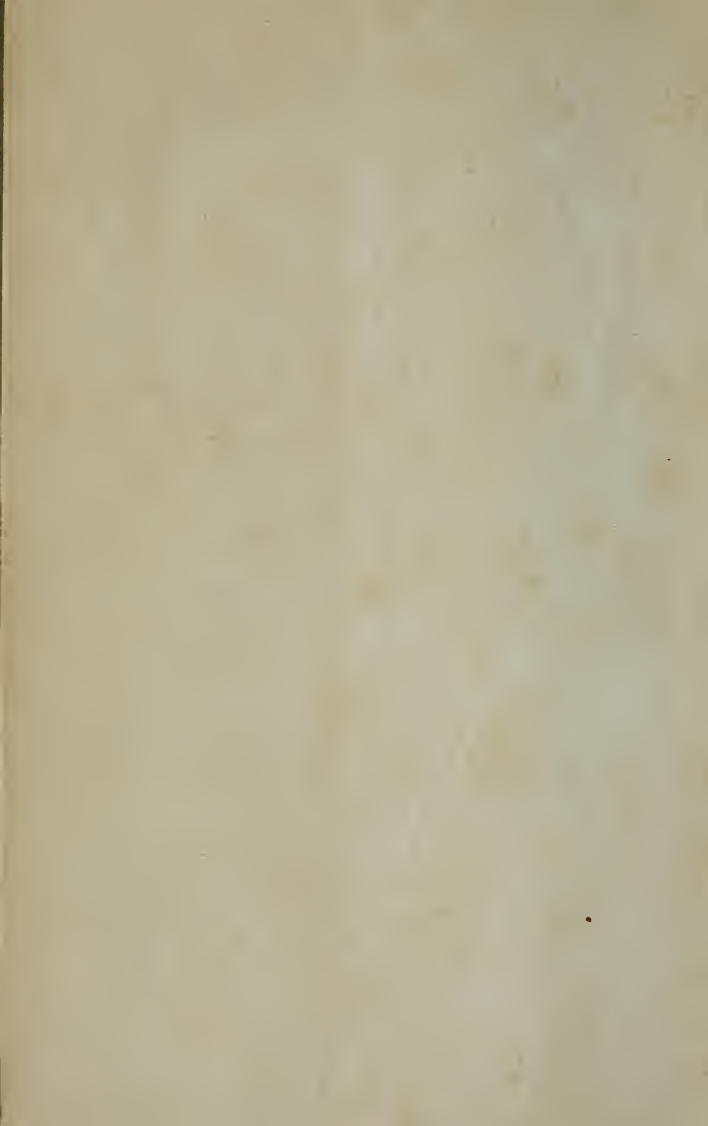
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Crim. Con.

A NOVEL,

FOUNDED ON FACTS.

BY H. M. MORIARTY,

Authoress of "Brighton in an Uproar," &c. &c. &c.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

Domestic Happiness, thou only bliss
Of Paradise that hast surviv'd the Fall!

.....
Thou art the nurse of Virtue! * * *

.....
Thou art not known where Pleasure is ador'd;
That reeling goddess with the zoneless waste
And wand'ring eyes, still leaning on the arm
Of Novelty, her fickle, frail support:
For thou art meek and constant, hating change,
And finding in the calm of truth-tied love
Joys that her stormy raptures never yield.
Forsaking thee, what shipwreck have we made
Of honour, dignity, and fair renown!

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR AND SOLD BY THE AUTHORESS,
At Messrs. Seaton and Smith's, Stationers, 40, Oxford
Street (corner of Newman Street); and may
be had of all Booksellers.

1812.

CLARK, JOHN

A. 1854

ATTESTED BY

NOTARY

WILLIAM C. H. H.

Notary Public for the State of New York

in and for the County of

Westchester

do hereby certify

that the within and foregoing

is a true and correct copy

of the original on file in my

office, and that the same

has been duly examined

and found to be correct

in all particulars.

Witness my hand and seal

this 1st day of

January 1854

at New York

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CRIM. CON.

CHAP. I.

What is that vice which still prevails,
When almost ev'ry passion fails ;
Which with our very dawn begun,
Nor ends but with our setting sun ;
Which like a noxious weed can spoil
The purest flow'r, and choke the soil ?
'Tis slander ; and with shame I own
The vice of human kind alone.

OUR unfortunate heroine was more dead than alive when she entered the lock-up house, and the kind and benevolent Mr. and Mrs. Last were apprehensive that the shock which she had received would terminate all her troubles by her immediate death ; for, to all appearance, she

possessed as little animation as a marble statue, as she was bereft of both sense and motion.

A little time, however, brought Angelina to a full sense of her hapless situation, and her excellent understanding overcame those fears which the surprise of the arrest had occasioned. She requested Mr. Last to send for a gentleman of the first eminence in the law, as she was convinced that in England, the country renowned for liberty and laws, she had only to make known the infamous manner in which she had been treated, to have immediate redress.

It was so late in the evening before she adopted this resolution, that Mr. Equity was from home when the shoemaker went for him; this added considerably to the orphan's distress, as it was repugnant to her feelings to pass the night in such a place; however, she was compelled to do so. The greater

part of the tedious hours she devoted to her Maker; and her piety was crowned with success, as she met Mr. Equity the following morning, perfectly composed. She stated to him what had reduced her to her present disgraceful situation, and requested his advice how to proceed to extricate herself from her difficulties. By his desire Mr. Last went to Mrs. Snap's, to demand Miss Dalrymple's clothes and property which she had left there; but that lady denied having any thing belonging to Angelina, whom she represented as a vile impostor—a French girl, who had been mistress to Lord V——, and had robbed him; that his lady, having found out the intrigue, had turned her out of doors.

Mr. Equity, upon being informed of this, returned with the shoe-maker to Mrs. Snap's: he demanded Miss Dalrymple's account, which he informed the old beldam he would instantly dis-

charge, and that she should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. She was so alarmed at this, that she promised to withdraw the action, and return to the orphan her property, provided they would not prosecute her, assuring Mr. Equity that she acted by the orders of Lord V——.

The solicitor replied, that he would consult his client; but, if she acted by his opinion, he would make an example of Lord V—— and all his accomplices. He had scarcely finished relating to Miss Dalrymple the success of his visit, when the man who had arrested her brought in a trunk containing her clothes, and informed her that the action was discharged; consequently she was at liberty to leave his house whenever she pleased.

Mr. Equity assured the orphan it would be false delicacy in her, if she did not investigate the business and

obtain justice from the parties concerned. Angelina thanked him for his advice, and concurred in the justness of his opinion ; and, were she in any other situation, she would abide by his wishes. But, alone as she was in the world, without relations or friends to protect her, she could not consent to make herself known to the community by being brought forward in a court of justice to face the husband of her benefactress, and such wretches as Mrs. Snap and her associates.

There is such beauty in truth, that it requires no ornament to stamp its value. The artless manner in which the orphan recited her past life and future prospects had such a powerful effect on Mr. Equity's feelings, that he proffered her his friendship ; acknowledging that, upon reconsidering the subject, he thought her determination proper ; strongly recommended her to seclude herself as

much as possible, lest Lord V—— should again molest her. She candidly told Mr. Equity that it was her wish to do so ; that she knew not where to go, as she was a stranger even to the manners and customs of England. He requested that she would remain where she was for about an hour, when he would return, and bring such tidings as he flattered himself would prove very agreeable to her.

During his absence, she changed her dress, which had been very ill calculated for the place she was in ; but, upon opening the trunk, she found that only a small part of her clothes had been sent, and that her trinkets and money were still in King's Place. Mrs. Last went immediately to demand them ; but the whole of the family had absconded, and the person in the house declared that she did not know them, nor what had become of them.

When Mr. Equity returned, he brought a middle-aged lady with him, whom he introduced as his sister, the widow of a naval officer, only having her pension to support herself and two children : she kept a boarding-house in Chelsea, and it was decided that the orphan should take up her residence with this lady ; and, to avoid being known, she adopted the name of Miss de Lisle, as her foreign accent made it indispensable that she should pass as a foreigner. This plan was more advisable than her remaining at the shoemaker's, as assuredly inquiry would there be made after her.

Angelina insisted upon placing in Mr. Equity's hands a pearl necklace and diamond cross which she had on when she left Mrs. Snap's : he was extremely averse to keeping them, as he assured her that he had no doubt of gaining satisfactory accounts of her father, till

when he would with pleasure advance her any money she wanted ; but she would not consent to accept of any pecuniary obligations from him, unless he would keep the deposit which she then offered. Finding her inexorable, he consented, at the same time assuring her that he would not dispose of them.

Mrs. Morgan, with whom Angelina now took up her abode, was a motherly, good kind of woman, who could feel for the distresses of her fellow creatures, and would exert herself to meliorate their sorrows. She was so occupied in regulating her family concerns, that she very seldom either visited or received company, therefore the orphan could live as retired in her house as she wished. On her first becoming an inmate of Mrs. Morgan's, her spirits were in such agitation from the recent occurrences which had taken place, that she prevailed on that lady to let her remain

in her own apartment, as she felt unequal to mix with the boarders.

Mr. Equity's inquiries at the India-house and War-office respecting Major Dalrymple gained no other information than what Lord V—— had before learnt, except that the agent refused paying any money on Major Dalrymple's account, unless authorised by him, or, if dead, by his executors. This intelligence determined Angelina to endeavour to turn to advantage ^{what} she had hitherto practised as am^{usement}ents; and she obtained, through Mrs. Last, to be employed in fine needle works: she only waited for an answer to a letter which she had written to Père St. Paul, when she resolved to return to France, and reside with some ladies whom she knew at Bourdeaux, for she was determined never to marry.

Augustus was still the object of her fondest affections; but, supposing that

even now he would espouse her, could she enter a family who despised her, and looked upon her not only as a depraved character, but as an adulteress? Of Godolphin she always thought with the greatest esteem ; but could she now accept of him, when she was defamed, and an outcast of society? and, indeed, it was most probable that, after what had passed, neither of the gentlemen would wish for an alliance with her.

Poor Angelina deceived herself, for she lamented the loss of Augustus's good opinion more than any other calamity ; and it would have been a great consolation to her if she had known that he was then miserable on her account ;

“ For without a friend the world is a wilderness.”

The orphan now applied herself to work with the greatest diligence, and, her mind being constantly employed in

this pursuit, it had the most salutary effects upon her health. She had the heartfelt delight of knowing that she was acting right, and she felt assured that the infinite power of her Heavenly Father would crown her virtuous endeavours both here and hereafter. Without this impression, she was convinced that the highest station in life is insipid, and with it the lowest state is comparatively a paradise.

At length Mrs. Morgan over-ruled her young friend's scruple, and prevailed upon her to appear at the boarding-table, as she hoped that the change of scene and society would dissipate the melancholy which had taken such deep hold of the orphan, and she could not fail of meeting with some amusement in contemplating the different characters which formed the motley group.

Mrs. Morgan had only eight boarders at this period: they consisted of the

widow of an officer of rank, who was compelled to turn authoress to maintain a large family. An officer of the same corps in which Mrs. Scribble's husband had served was another boarder, a Captain Trigger: he was descended from a Scotch family; he had an amiable wife and one child. Report circulated that his helpmate frequently felt the weight of his hand, and that she was best pleased to remain at a distance from the bashaw whom she had vowed to obey.

This gentleman had come to London to forward an invention of his, which he assured the public must prove highly advantageous to the British army, by giving them a decided superiority over all other troops, as it would enable the muskets to shoot in all directions. But Captain Trigger found it difficult to prevail on any person to pay attention to his invention; some boldly asserting that it was only a trifling alteration to a

puff which was made use of under the great Duke of Marlborough, and which was then exploded in consequence of the army having sustained considerable loss in the experiment. But Captain Trigger was not, however, easily to be prevented from remounting this his favourite and he trusted lucrative hobby ; at the same time he was at a nonplus to know how to bring his wonderful ingenuity into repute. He was a bad scribe, and spelt indifferently ; he had never been accustomed to address persons of distinction. Chance befriended him, by hearing that Mrs. Scribble boarded in Chelsea, and he determined to take up his residence in the same house, that he might profit by her abilities : accordingly he became an inmate of Mrs. Morgan's, and he succeeded in getting Mrs. Scribble to indite letters for him to the Commander in Chief, &c. &c. &c.

He was fortunately blessed with a re-

tentive memory, and he recollected that a gentleman to whom one of his relations was game-keeper, held a lucrative post under Government, and had great influence at Court. To this great man Captain Trigger made his *bow*; stated the great utility his invention would be of to the state, as he could make it appear very clearly that the trigger-puff would do twelve times the execution of the *Congreve* rockets. The gentleman to whom this statement was made had not himself time to investigate the business: but he was really a worthy man, and had the welfare of his country at heart; he therefore gave the Captain such recommendations as he knew would, if the invention deserved attention, bring it into notice. Accordingly Captain Trigger set to work, and, by the assistance of Mrs. Scribble's pen, obtained an order to send to the army some trigger-puffs for trial.

On Captain Trigger's first coming to Mrs. Morgan's, he was all politeness to Mrs. Scribble, and consulted her respecting his future views in life, as he had no doubt that the British Government, which is always so ready to reward merit, would settle on him twelve hundred per annum, as Mr. Congreve had that sum for rockets, which could not be estimated at half the utility of the *trigger-puff*; but, as the Captain now wished to appear a disinterested public character, he had it in contemplation to propose to his Royal Highness the Commander in Chief, that, if he would permit him to take one thousand men from the supernumeraries voted for the naval department, equip them as a rifle corps, and give Captain Trigger brevet rank, and the command of them, that he would then only accept of eight hundred per annum pension, as a remuneration for his invention during the

time he was so employed ; and, as Captain Trigger was a very tall lusty man, he was in all respects calculated to command a light division. Indeed, he was indefatigable in promoting the good of the public, and at the same time he reaped such improvement as he trusted would eventually perpetuate his name, as a literary as well as a military character.

To effect this, he attended the British Forum, and debated on the Lancasterian system of education, and on other subjects of equal moment to the rising generation. The two or three first times of his speaking, he felt rather abashed at the genteel audience who there attended not being acquainted with the Scottish dialect, and frequently requesting that the noble Captain would condescend to explain the meaning of some abstruse phrases which he made use of in his oratory. Finding these applications

very mortifying from such a select and respectable society, he was resolved by practice to become perfect in the English language. To accomplish this desirable event, he passed his evenings at the *Finish* in Covent-Garden, where he disputed with the learned characters he met with there on political subjects, highly edifying to the audience and beneficial to the state; and in this elegant place he made himself perfectly master of the vulgar tongue.

The other officer who boarded with Mrs. Morgan was a Captain Gravel; he boasted of the antiquity of his family, which all the party concluded from his name to be correct, as assuredly there was Gravel before the Flood: he had served in Egypt, and he entertained the company with the miraculous feats of bravery which he had performed when there: he also assured the boarders that he was very rich, and that, when he

married, he could settle three hundred per annum on the happy woman who should take his name. He had a countenance perfectly calculated for a hero, as he looked both ways at once. The only impediment to his military career was his speech, as he mumbled and spluttered as if he had a hot potatoe in his mouth ; but, in spite of the trifling defects which have been mentioned, he thought himself extremely handsome, and that every lady whom he met was in love with him.

The widow Scribble had never met with this great character before he came to Mrs. Morgan's, therefore she was astonished at the dislike he manifested towards her : she never spoke that he did not flatly contradict her, whether she addressed her conversation to him or to any other person ; expressed great astonishment that she should think of placing her sons at genteel schools, as

they had not any right by birth or otherwise to be so educated ; that the eldest boy should be sent to sea, and then out of his pay he might allow his mother thirty pounds per annum ; and that at Greenwich Hospital there was a school for such children to be educated free of expence, where the other boy might be sent ; these observations, with various others equally delicate and liberal, had been so frequently repeated, that one of the boarders informed Mrs. Scribble of Captain Gravel's opinion of herself and children ; and, as she was always ready to clear her conduct, and to act for her children's welfare, she wrote to the Lieut. Governor of Greenwich Hospital, praying that her sons might be admitted into the school appropriated for the education of orphans of officers.

In reply he stated, that she had been misinformed, as the only seminary at-

tached to that invaluable charity was one for the children of seamen and marines, who had paid sixpence per month for the support of the school; she also learned that, if she placed her boy in the navy, instead of his allowing her thirty per year, he would require that sum to pay his mess expences, &c. &c. She shewed this letter to Captain Gravel, in the presence of the boarders; and, if possible, he looked more foolish than usual on the occasion. It was concluded from his behaviour, that he considered insulting the widow of an officer who held a high rank in the same corps with himself, made him appear of great consequence to the company present.

Beside these gentlemen, were two other officers, very genteel, agreeable men; and, by their polished manners, they made amends for the others' roughness.

A wine agent was an annual boarder of Mrs. Morgan's. Mr. Barsac was ex-

tremely liberal in his disposition, and a general favourite in the house. To oblige the gentlemen, he sometimes permitted them to join him in his wine, as his was much better than any they could procure. This is a description of the party with whom Angelina was now to associate.

The first day she appeared at table, Captain Trigger entered, after they were all seated, quite out of breath, and in apparent agitation. "By G—d!" he exclaimed, "I have fixed a fellow. Could you believe it? A dirty lamp-lighter had the audacity to run against me with his ladder. With one blow I fixed him to the ground; when I quietly walked on, leaving every one present amazed at my prowess."—Dinner was just finished, when some men passed, blowing horns, crying out 'Extraordinary news!' Captain Trigger ran out to fix the rascals for daring to annoy him; he took care, however, not

to follow them till he knew that they were out of his reach ; and, when he returned, he regretted that he could not overtake them, that he might have made an example of such wretches.

At this period, Mrs. Scribble had just published a Novel: Captain Trigger, who was always mindful of the main chance, requested to have three hundred copies for his wife to dispose of. She voluntarily acceded to his wishes, and to let him have them at trade price, provided he would pay ready money for them. Now this was what Captain Trigger always objected to doing; for, since he had become a military and literary character, he naturally considered that it was quite sufficient to have the honour of serving him, without requiring any remuneration for so doing: but he never forgave Mrs. Scribble for presuming to make him responsible for the books, and she greatly added to the affront, by declining to draw a model for

a gun which he had in contemplation of laying before the Commander in Chief, which assuredly would prove of the greatest utility to the British troops, as the men would be able to perform double marches; they would also not have the fatigue of carrying a musket, as they were to be placed in small go-carts, which the soldiers would push before them. Another advantage which would arise from this wonderful discovery was, that an army so equipped would cover double or treble the ground which they now occupied; consequently the French would be deceived as to numbers, and probably be afraid to engage them.

Mrs. Scribble did not refuse her assistance to bring such an useful invention into notice from any want of that loyal spirit which every person who has the good fortune to be a British subject should possess; but she was convinced from some persons in the house, and

from what she had seen, that Captain Trigger was a designing, artful character; that he flattered her to her face; and that, when her back was turned, he spoke of her in an unhandsome manner; therefore she saw no reason why she should devote her time, which she could employ so much more usefully, to such a despicable person.

Angelina was astonished and amused with this hero: in speaking of the female heroines of his family, he represented them to have been all famous shots; that they killed their six or seven brace of birds in a few hours. She could not refrain from laughing at this description of feminine softness; as assuredly, although such sports are tolerated in the other sex, yet every feeling heart must consider them as barbarous, and unfit for a female's relaxation. He had observed the orphan's smile, and he, in return, grinned a horrible one.

From that moment, whenever she was present, he began abusing the French; wished they were all extirpated from the face of the globe; that he never knew one that was worth the rope to hang them: as for his part, he would not let a French person or a papist enter his house. This conversation he knew must be very distressing to Angelina, and also to Mrs. Scribble, whose mother was a foreigner. The rest of the boarders were so shocked at Captain Trigger's vulgarity, that they disliked him extremely, and were in anxious expectation of his removing from Chelsea.

Captain Gravel was determined to attend the Prince Regent's Levee, and, as he possessed high notions, he determined to go in such style as would do credit to the corps to which he had the honour to belong.

“ Altho’ he was on pleasure bent,
He had a frugal mind ;”

consequently he did not like to go to any unnecessary expence. For a person of his rank and consequence to walk, was assuredly not going in *style*. A hackney-coach was a degrading sort of conveyance. The glass coaches which he had seen had the windows so small, that a well-dressed person could not be seen in them ; beside which, he must take it for the day, and, with the expence of the coachman, it would not be far short of two guineas ; he therefore went in search of a chariot, in which his elegant person would be seen to great advantage ; added to which, as it was only half the size of a coach, it was natural to suppose that it would only be half the expence : but in this he was mistaken, for, after searching all the livery stables and coachmakers in or near town, he found that he must pay the same price for the chariot as the coach.

Fortunately, however, it struck him that, by frequenting the coffee-houses, he might probably meet with some gentleman who would gladly join him in the expence of the carriage ; and it answered his expectation, as, at the New Exchange Coffee-house, he met with a Dr. Lotion, who was going to the Prince Regent's Levee, in hopes of not only obtaining a patent, but patronage for a nostrum that would cure all disorders, make the old young, and the young wise. This being soon settled to the satisfaction of both parties, the only thing wanting to make the equipage complete was a servant : the Doctor had left his loblolly boy in the country ; but the Captain applied to the recruiting serjeant, who sent him a soldier, who was dressed *en laquet*.

At last the day arrived when the gentlemen were to make their *debüt* at Court. By six o'clock in the morning,

Captain Gravel roused all the house, as Mr. Frizzle was to come by half-past seven to cut his hair; and from that hour till two in the afternoon, he was decorating his sweet person. When the chariot came, the Captain and quack Doctor proceeded to Pall-Mall; but, alas! the crowd was so great, that the carriage could not approach Carleton House, and, after sitting till their patience was quite exhausted, they were compelled to leave the carriage and proceed on foot.

These troubles did not end here; for Captain Gravel never having been so dressed before, and although decorated in every respect to his own ideas of propriety, yet he was not so in the opinion of the gentlemen in waiting, and they, with that court negligence which is so fascinating to all ranks in society, begged leave to suggest that Captain Gravel, the Egyptian hero, had not put his

sword on right ; therefore they deputed one of the Pages to shew him how it should be worn. Dr. Lotion and the persons present could not help smiling ; but Captain Gravel soon recovered his usual serenity, and indeed the mistake of the sword was of advantage to him, as it brought a colour into his face, which otherwise looked wan and sickly.

On his return home, he gratified the boarders with an account of his reception. The Prince Regent was so gracious, that he anticipated an invitation to dine with him the next day *en famille* : indeed, it was requisite that he should meet with such an invitation, to compensate for the expence and disappointment which the visit had occasioned ; for, although all the porters and chairmen joined Doctor Lotion and Captain Gravel in loudly vociferating for the chariot and laquet, they never appeared, and the gentlemen were com-

pelled to walk home ; and, about two hours after their return, the carriage, with the soldier laquet, drove to the door to inquire what had become of their employers.

By some neglect, which is not unfrequent in the houses of the great, the Prince Regent's invitation for Captain Gravel to dine with him never arrived ; but a Page came for the usual fee of a guinea, when a gentleman is first introduced at Court. Captain Gravel would not submit to such extortion ; therefore he desired that the Page would call again, as he was particularly engaged. The man came the following day, but Captain Gravel was denied ; and, as he was persevering in his demand, the Captain removed from Chelsea, to be quit of such an importuning visitor. To say the truth of this Egyptian hero, his illiberal and rude conduct to Mrs. Scribble proceeded more from an ostentatious

pomposity than from any badness of heart; for she had heard that, in some instances, he had evinced not only humanity, but liberality to the distressed; but such is the compound of human nature, that too frequently we see that pride and arrogance will overcome, by their pernicious propensities, some of the best dispositions of the heart, and the persons who suffer themselves to be so misled, in the cool moment of reflection lament their conduct: yet strange, and no less strange than true, that, the first opportunity that offers, they will again endeavour to raise their own consequence by depreciating others, although by so doing they lacerate the acute feelings of the unfortunate.

As the society in a boarding-house is always fluctuating, and probably few situations can give a more thorough insight into the manners of the world than such a residence, Captain Gravel's

departure made room for a Mr. and Mrs. Leveret. Their manners were such as to ensure the esteem of those with whom they associated ; and it may be truly asserted of them, that they possessed as few failings as fall to the lot of humanity.

The great Captain Trigger, however, turned every one into ridicule, and, when he appeared, a general silence prevailed, as they did not like to dispute with him, and he was fond of argument. But one fatal day, while he was in the parlour, the servant entered to tell Mrs. Scribble that a lady who came for some books requested to see her. When the widow saw the person, she perceived that she was a stranger, who requested to be received in a private room, as her business was of the greatest consequence. Mrs. Scribble was going to conduct her into the drawing-room ; but, when she had ascended half way up the stairs, it

struck her that so doing was hazardous, as it was in the dusk of the evening, and she might be an impostor. Mrs. Scribble therefore descended, saying that, as the lady refused giving her name, or any light on the subject on which she came, she could not think of giving her a private interview, as she could not have any thing to communicate which Miss de Lisle and her children might not hear, therefore she opened the door of a small parlour in which they were.

The incognita looked extremely displeased at this introduction, representing that assuredly the widow could not feel afraid of a female who came to promote her welfare and happiness : she said that a late publication of Mrs. Scribble's had excited a considerable degree of curiosity in a lady of high fashion to be acquainted with the authoress ; she had therefore deputed her to visit Mrs.

Scribble, and to request that she would send her last Novel to the lady wrapped up in cotton, as, from some family disagreements, she was so watched that she could receive neither letters nor publications but by stealth; for, although the lady was considered by the generality of the world to possess every luxury and happiness which this life had to offer, she was, in fact, only a miserable woman; neglected by her husband, who was jealous of her; hated by his family, who would stop at no act, even of injustice, to accelerate her ruin.

Mrs. Scribble looked astonished at this address to her; upon which the lady continued—

“I see, Madam, that you doubt the truth of what I communicate; but rest assured that I shall prove the best friend you ever had. The offers I have to make you will place you and your family in affluence. Instead of residing in a

common boarding-house, as you now do, liable to mix in every kind of society, you shall have a comfortable house, servants at your command, and an income adequate to supply all reasonable desires. But I can only in private tell you what is expected for such liberality. Send the books according to my instructions: in return you will receive a bank note of considerable amount in a blank cover; and the next day, in the Morning Herald, you will read, in large characters, just before the London news, 'The books are received, and much approved of.'

"Surely, Madam, after experiencing such a *douceur*, you will not continue to refuse me a secret audience; but it must be in the evening, for I will use no deception with you, and confess that I am a marked character. It is only in the dark that I dare venture out, for my attachment to the lady who sent me here

has occasioned me some potent enemies, who will pay any price for my life. By the mercy of Providence, I have hitherto escaped from the various machinations used for my destruction ; for, believe me, for some time past the dagger and poison have done as much mischief in this country as the guillotine ever did in a neighbouring nation.

“ My name I cannot divulge. Probably you may hear from me, and I shall sign myself—Gold. You will also soon see me again: but I can fix no time ; for I have found such treachery in the world, that I will trust no one; and, although I have the highest opinion of your integrity, yet I will not place unlimited confidence even in you.”

With these words she departed, leaving Mrs. Scribble and Miss de Lisle in the greatest consternation.

CHAP. II.

'Tis Providence alone secures,
In ev'ry change, both mine and your's,
Safety consists not in escape
From dangers of a frightful shape;
An earthquake may be bid to spare
The man that's strangled by a hair.
Fate steals along with silent tread,
Found oft'nest in what least we dread;
Frowns in the storm with angry brow,
And in the sunshine strikes the blow.

Mrs. SCRIBBLE mentioned, in presence of the boarders, the extraordinary visitor which she had just had, and communicated to them the purport of her conversation. The stranger most assuredly was an Irish woman, and, from her appearance, Mrs. Scribble suspected that she was some unfortunate

maniac. Several of the party advised her sending the books as requested; but she declined doing so, and was averse to having any thing to do in future with her new friend.

Captain Trigger took up the affair in a very serious light; he did not think the person insane, but some vile incendiary, whom it was proper, for the safety of the state, should be watched, and prevented from doing mischief; therefore he represented to the widow, in all the powerful language which he had acquired at the *Finish*, that it was her duty to see the incognita; to sift who she was, and find out the truth of from whom she came; that, while she was so employed, he would get a police officer, and give her in charge as a suspicious character.

Mrs. Scribble could not be prevailed on to adopt such a hostile measure, whoever the poor creature was: she had

come with the impression of being of ultimate advantage to herself and her children ; added to which, she did not yet know of what nature the return expected of her for such munificence was ; and it was repugnant to her feelings to place a respectable-looking woman in such a disgraceful situation ; she therefore requested that Captain Trigger, should the lady call again, would watch where she went, as then it could be easily ascertained whether she was a person of whom the police should take cognizance ; and, provided that he would do this, Mrs. Scribble consented to see her alone, and to hear what great offers she had to propose.

About ten days elapsed before the incognita again made her appearance ; it was on a Sunday evening. Captain Trigger was at home ; and two young ladies, who were come to drink tea with Mrs. Morgan, volunteered their services

to accompany the Captain in his pursuit of the residence of the strange lady. This weighty point being arranged, Mrs. Scribble went to her new friend.

“ Well, then, Madam, you have at last mustered courage to receive me alone ; and you may rely that the most beneficial effects will result to you from such confidence. But tell me why you have not complied with my wishes by sending the books as I desired ? You stand in your own light, for the lady expected them, and she is displeased at your not having paid attention to her commands. But you still look alarmed : of what can you be afraid ? Is not my appearance respectable ? I do not ask charity ; on the contrary, I am rich, and I can administer to your comforts, and I am ready to do so. Then have confidence in me, and follow my advice.”

Mrs. Scribble assuredly did not feel quite free from alarms in the company

of her mysterious visitor, but she thought it wisest to conceal her apprehensions ; in consequence, she assured her, that, so far from being afraid, she was anxious to hear the purport of her visit, and ready, if possible, to meet her wishes.

“ Possible !” she exclaimed ; “ why only a mad person would expect impossibilities, and surely you cannot look upon me as insane. I tell you that I am sent from Lady —— to offer you independence, if you will undertake, under the form of a Novel, to lay before the public some facts with which she wishes them to be acquainted, because an immense inheritance depends on some secrets being brought to light. I am, Madam, the bosom friend of this unfortunate lady ; I have been privy to all her private concerns for the last sixteen years. To the world she appears culpable ; but I know her to be benevolent, good, and virtuous. Were she a bad

character, I beg you to believe that I would not apply to you, through the medium of your pen, to interest the public in her favour.

“ But, before you can engage in this concern, you must have a house at a small distance from London : it must have a back door, as all persons concerned with the great should be able to receive them without its being generally known. I will get two trusty persons to attend on you, for you must not have any one about you but of my placing : common servants cannot be trusted. I shall see you frequently ; but you must never attempt to watch my actions : if you did, it could be of no use, for I have thirteen places of residence. I never sleep twice in the same place, and I never eat twice in the same house ; for I know my life is sought after. I am so careful, that I never even take refreshment at the same hour : sometimes I

eat in the night, at others in the day. I mention these particularities, to prove to you that any attempt to discover whom I am must prove fruitless. Follow my directions, and you and your children will move in that sphere in society which you are so calculated to adorn. Those who have abided by my opinion have all succeeded in life; others, who have rejected my advice, have experienced misery and death. To prove the truth of what I advance, I will recite a memorable event, which took place about two years since.

“ My intercourse in high life makes me accurately acquainted with what concerns persons in all the respectable classes of society. It came to my knowledge that a gentleman, holding a good employ in a respectable profession, had, to ingratiate himself with persons in power who could assist in advancing him to a lucrative post, materially in-

jured his fortune by giving expensive entertainments to these patrons : at last they offered him the situation for which he languished, provided that he would, in return, perform some services for them, which, with his nice sense of honour, he could not in justice comply with. This refusal of his was received with the greatest indignation ; and they plainly told him, on no other terms they would place him in affluence than those which they had mentioned. The unfortunate man was perfectly distracted : he had an expensive family ; he was deeply in debt ; and possessed that false pride which can suffer indigence and misery, sooner than acknowledge to the world their real situation, and retrench their expences.

“ When he was in this predicament, I waited on him : he was astonished at seeing a female stranger. ‘ I am come, Sir,’ I said, ‘ to give you advice. I

consider it my duty as a Christian to do all in my power to meliorate the sufferings of my fellow creatures. I know your situation: it is, in your opinion, desperate, because you have not courage to encounter the ridicule of society; but reflect, Sir, and then your good sense will convince you that only the worthless will condemn you. The virtuous and the wise will respect the man who prefers poverty to infamy. Abide by my opinion; publish the whole of the proceedings, the offers held out to you, and upon what conditions. Rest assured that the persons will give you the place you want without any restrictions, sooner than that the public should be made acquainted with their illiberal principles.'

“ Mr. — was deaf to my entreaties: he pleaded that his honour was concerned; that, if he divulged secrets which had been communicated to him

in confidence, he should justly forfeit that estimation in society which he then held ; that all that remained for him to do, was to fly to some place where his creditors could not molest him, and to wait patiently till some of his *great* and numerous patrons would condescend to provide for him.

“ Finding that all my valuable counsel was thrown away, I left him to his fate. A melancholy one it proved ; for, in a few days, I learned the dreadful certainty that he had hung himself at an inn in the City, where he had removed the night before to sleep, that he might be ready for a northern coach in which he had taken a place to convey him from a distance from all his troubles. Unfortunate man ! sincerely did I feel for him ; for his agony of mind must have been indeed severe before he could bring himself to such a rash act ; and that he should hold in estimation the

ridicule of what is called the world at a more exorbitant price than his future salvation, made me conclude him mad.

“ Now, Madam, after the recital I have made, assuredly you can no longer doubt that I am a person of consequence, well acquainted with the intrigues of the fashionable world, and adequate to direct you in the path which you ought to pursue for the advancement of your family : but it grows late, and it is now time that I should give you some insight as to what is expected of you.

“ Lady —, you know, has for some years been separated from her husband. Only one daughter blessed their union, at least so is the general opinion; and she, you are aware, will prove the richest heiress in England. But what you are wanted to do is, to contradict this; for about six years since, to the astonishment of the few who were privy to

the circumstance, Lord —— came to his Lady's country residence, behaved to her with the greatest good humour and attention, dined with her, and told her it was his intention to pass the night where he then was ; that he was sensible that he had not treated her with that kindness- which she merited, but that, if she could forget the past, his future days should be devoted to make amends for his past neglect.

“ Lady —— was delighted at this reunion ; she anticipated with fond expectation her future happiness, and retired to her apartment with a heart perfectly at ease. But short was the duration of her felicity, when she inquired at breakfast for her Lord : the persons to whom she addressed herself for intelligence stared at her with well feigned astonishment, declaring that they had never seen him there, and that her Ladyship must be in a dream. Suffice it to

say, Madam, that a plan was laid to defame the fair character of this virtuous lady. Myself and one other female are the only persons who will acknowledge the visit of her husband, the consequence of which was a son : but, hitherto, he has been kept in obscurity, as she does not dare acknowledge him, otherwise she would be divorced, as her Lord denies ever having been with her since their first separation.

“ He knows that I am a witness of consequence in this momentous affair, and he will neither spare expence nor trouble to destroy me. Only last evening I was followed by two men who had poignards ready to immolate me, when a convenient opportunity offered. Look here,” (pulling up her sleeves, which discovered marks of violence), “ I got these scars in scaling a wall to fly from my pursuers. But all they can do avails nothing : I am engaged in the cause of

virtue, and my Heavenly Father clothes me in a robe of adamant, which the unrighteous cannot penetrate. Answer me quickly, for I must be gone. Will you undertake the publication which is wanted?

“ But I will candidly tell you that it is attended with danger. One gentleman, of eminence in the law, was Lady ——’s friend : he knew the whole of the proceeding, and had every thing in readiness to bring forward the information for the public ; but it became known to her enemies the active part which he was about to adopt in her favour, and he, Madam, was poisoned : therefore you must be careful not to trust your dearest friend with what you are to undertake, otherwise your life will be the forfeit.”

Mrs. Scribble was now so thoroughly convinced that her companion was a poor unfortunate maniac, that she be-

came extremely alarmed, and endeavoured to pacify her agitated nerves by an evasive answer ; but in this she could not succeed, as she quickly replied,

“ I must have a decided determination. If you comply with the wishes of my Lady, you shall see me again in a few days. A residence suitable to your rank shall be prepared for you, and I will bring you such documents as must convince you that I can be a powerful friend or a desperate enemy : so good night.” And she darted out of the house with precipitation.

The widow really was afraid of the mysterious stranger, and resolved never again to expose herself to such a *tête-à-tête*.

Captain Trigger soon returned ; he had given the ladies the slip who had accompanied him, as he said it struck him, upon second thoughts, that she might belong to some desperate gang,

and that it was imprudent to follow her unless accompanied by a *Bow-street* officer. He continued all the evening to harp upon the incognita's visit; he said that he firmly believed her to be a spy from Buonaparte, and that, as Miss de Lisle was a French woman, and Mrs. Scribble of foreign extraction, she came to them to assist her in her diabolical practices; that, as he was an officer in his Britannic Majesty's service, it would be extremely improper for him to remain in a house where such nocturnal meetings were tolerated; consequently he gave notice that he should leave Chelsea the next day.

Poor Angelina was extremely terrified at Captain Trigger's manner, as he threatened to inform Government of the affair. As to Mrs. Scribble, she was sorry that Mrs. Morgan should lose a boarder; but she laughed extremely at the noble Captain's ideas of loyalty, and

she took the liberty of reminding him that, instead of endeavouring to frighten helpless females by his blustering, if he really thought that a treasonable correspondence was in agitation, it was his duty to investigate the business, and bring the culprits to punishment. 'This,' he observed, should be an after consideration: he should immediately consult the great man to whom his relation was game-keeper, and abide by his opinion: he then stalked up and down the room for half an hour, to the annoyance of all present; then demanded pen, ink, and paper, that he might commit to writing the whole of the conversation: but, when he was supplied with these necessary articles, he made no use of them, probably feeling his incapacity to do justice to what he had to communicate.

When the rest of the boarders returned home, they were extremely entertained

at hearing what had passed, and expressed their great satisfaction that they should so soon get rid of the pompous and ignorant Captain Trigger.

Agreeable to his promise, he left the house the following morning, during the time that Mrs. Morgan was gone to market: he placed a five pound note in Mr. Barsac's hands to pay what he was indebted for his board and lodging; but, as that sum was not half sufficient, Mrs. Morgan sent his account directed to him at the Coffee-house, according to his request, and Mr. Barsac, at the same time, enclosed his, as the Captain had joined him in wine, had also borrowed money at cards, and to pay for entering the theatre. But no notice was taken of these applications, and, upon Mr. Barsac's writing a pressing note for payment, he received a reply, stating that, when he could produce a licence for selling wine by retail, he would attend

to his demand. In the mean time, if he had any regard for his face, he advised him to keep out of his way. As to Mrs. Morgan, he refused either paying her, the washerwoman, or the servant, from whom he had borrowed money ; and, to avoid such disagreeable demands, he changed his place of residence three times within a fortnight.

At last the law compelled him to pay for his lodgings, and the washerwoman summoned him to the Court of Request, where the noble and honourable Captain was obliged to settle her just demand; but Captain Trigger swore that he was not indebted to Mr. Barsac, as he had drank of his wine when he invited him to meet the son of the great man to whom his relation was game-keeper, when he dined with him ; and, unless a licence was produced, he would not pay him. As Mr. Barsac never sold wine by retail, he could make no appeal to a

court of justice, otherwise, as Captain Trigger stated the concern, it would render him liable to a considerable fine. The officers who were inmates of Mrs. Morgan expressed the contempt which they felt for such a despicable character; said the company to which he belonged should be made acquainted with his conduct: it was unlike an officer and a gentleman; and he should be tried by a court martial, and dismissed the service.

For some weeks after Captain Trigger's departure, all was harmony at Mrs. Morgan's. Angelina had a letter from the good Père St. Paul, full of religion and sound sense, exhorting her to support herself with firmness under the temporary calamities which fell to her lot; by no means to leave England, but to be indefatigable in finding out her mother's relatives, and he made no doubt but her perseverance would meet

with success ; that in a few years, should her prospects in life bear the same sombre appearance which they now assumed, provided his life was spared, he would secure her an asylum near to himself, where she might end her days in supplicating everlasting happiness from her Redeemer. He enclosed her a bill of exchange to a considerable amount ; not, he said, to enable her to procure the vanities of this world, but that she might have it in her power to exercise that benevolence of disposition which she was blessed with ; that, in visiting the haunts of poverty, and in administering to the wants of the miserable, she would forget that she had afflictions : that he was informed that many worthy Catholics were to be found in London, absolutely starving ; these he particularly recommended to her notice.

This kind and affectionate letter had the desired effect upon the orphan : she

felt ashamed of herself for giving way to a despondency unbecoming a Christian, and was impatient to fulfil the duties expected of her, by immediately seeking the worthy indigent, and affording them relief. But she was at a loss how to put her humane intentions into execution: she did not know her way farther than the end of the King's Road, and she never ventured out but at night, when Mrs. Last brought her work and could accompany her, as she was so fearful of being recognized by any of Lord V——'s emissaries. After considering and pondering how she could find out the distressed, she determined to entrust Mrs. Last with her design, and the good woman voluntarily offered to accompany her in her perambulations.

Every fine evening, Angelina, with Mrs. Last and a priest, frequented the habitations of misery. Angelina esta-

blished a Catholic school for the indigent, superintended it herself, and in these occupations she recovered that serenity and cheerfulness which always accompany the virtuous heart.

On her return one night from her charitable visits, she found Mrs. Morgan and Mrs. Scribble in serious conversation. Angelina was retiring.

“ You must not go, my dear Miss de Lisle,” said the widow, “ for you are a party concerned in our *confab*. A friend of Mrs. Morgan’s has been here, to inform her that Captain Trigger, in a large company, represented that he had left Chelsea because the ladies in the house were of republican principles ; that he had consulted with a particular friend of his, General Simple, who took the advice of Captain Discount on the subject ; and that the three gentlemen decided that an information should be laid

at the Secretary of State's Office, to investigate the horrible treason that was on foot.

The orphan was some time before they could make her comprehend the nature of the crime of which she was accused; but, when she did understand it, her alarms were very great, and it required all the entreaties of her friends to prevail upon her to remain where she was, for she was desirous of immediately leaving the kingdom; but, when the ladies represented to her in forcible colours that her so doing would imply that she was guilty, she immediately relinquished the idea; and it was thought advisable to consult Mr. Equity how they should act, for they were sensible that Captain Trigger would swear through thick and thin, if by such conduct he could benefit himself; and, in the present instance, he was in hopes

this wonderful act of loyalty would get an increase of some hundreds per annum to his Trigger-puff pension.

Mr. Equity was much entertained at the idea of ladies being accused of republican principles: he thought the whole of the proceeding so perfectly ridiculous, that it was beneath notice: he promised to consider of it, after which he recommended that the ladies should wait upon the Secretary of State, and recite to him the visit of the mysterious stranger. By so doing, if they thought it worth notice, they would pay attention to it, and it would prevent Captain Trigger and his wise counsellors from doing mischief, which, from the character he had heard of that gentleman from his brother officers, he had reason to suppose he would do, if possible.

Accordingly, Mrs. Scribble and Miss de Lisle waited on the Secretary of

State's Private Secretary, and related the history of the old maniac. He was much entertained with the story ; assured them that he had frequently persons of the same description who came to lay information for the benefit of the state ; that he was convinced the poor creature was insane ; and he desired the ladies to be perfectly easy on the subject, for, if any malicious persons came to turn it to their injury, he would come forward and exonerate them from any unpleasant consequences. This assurance made them perfectly easy ; and they returned home in great spirits to communicate the success of their visit, figuring to themselves how ridiculous the noble Captain would now appear if he laid any complaint against them.

Mrs. Scribble found a letter for her ; it was from a King's Counsel, stating that he lamented to be compelled to communicate unpleasant intelligence, but that

himself, with several of his learned brethren, had been retained for a consultation respecting a criminal prosecution against herself and her companion, Mademoiselle de Lisle ; that she must be aware that such a proceeding would be attended with great expence and trouble ; that, as it always gave him pleasure to assist the widow and orphan, therefore he had solicited permission to inform her of what was in agitation, in hopes that some explanation might take place which would render such hostile proceeding unnecessary. At the same time, he must confess, that, from Captain Trigger's representation, there were grounds for the indictment ; and he begged her to recollect, that any republican expressions from her were highly reprehensible, as she was indebted for her's and her children's support from that Government whom it was stated she had depreciated ; that her nocturnal

meetings. with persons of the description represented, were assuredly imprudent, not to say culpable. He was also informed that Mademoiselle de Lisle was a suspicious character ; a secrecy accompanied all her actions, which must excite curiosity. She was not known to any person, lavished money on worthless objects ; and how she became possessed of the means to do so, was an enigma to every one. He said he was thus explicit, that Mrs. Scribble might, by being acquainted with the charges laid against her, be prepared to meet them.

The widow shewed this letter to Mr. Equity, and he said, if it was not that the trouble and expence would be enormous, he should like the business to be brought forward in court, expressly to ridicule the loyal Captain Trigger and his friends ; but, as such exposure would give the ladies great

anxiety, he desired that Mrs. Scribble would exactly state facts to the learned Counsel who had condescended to write to her, and he made no doubt but every thing would be settled to her satisfaction. She followed his directions, and several letters passed between the widow and the learned gentleman; and, from his humane interference, it was decided that, previously to Government prosecuting two females for republican principles, there should be a meeting of the parties at Counsellor ——'s chambers, when he would be competent to decide on the extent and nature of the treason.

Captain Trigger was averse to this; but Captain Discount, who really had a little sense, convinced General Simple that, as Captain Trigger could only bring a servant forward as evidence besides himself, he was apprehensive that he could not substantiate his charge; for

that, as to himself and the General, theirs could only be hear-say evidence, which would not have weight in a court of justice; that, in the kind of investigation which was to take place, the noble Captain Trigger would prove a material evidence; and he had great hopes, by this manner of proceeding, they should be able to annoy Mrs. Scribble and the French girl, probably be so fortunate as to ruin both ladies in the estimation of the public. As the learned counsel of course thought that, in such a momentous concern, great preparation was necessary, he fixed at the expiration of three weeks the day which was to bring such important discoveries to light.

Mr. Equity promised to conduct the business for the ladies, and the whole proceeding appeared to them so laughable, that they felt no uneasy sensations as the time approached. Captain

Trigger had retained a counsel to open the cause. Mrs. Scribble consulted Mr. Equity whether it was necessary to go to such an expence: he said, by no means; that the gentleman retained was a stupid vulgar man; but he had experienced some trouble respecting the Trigger-puff's, which contract had not been completed according to order; therefore the Captain took this opportunity of giving him a brief by way of remuneration, expecting that, by such liberality, he would exert his influence with persons in power to procure him the puff pension; for, at present, he was a loser instead of being a gainer by his ingenious invention.

To Angelina's great surprise, on entering the parlour a short time previous to the criminal investigation, the first object she saw was Captain Herbert: his joy at the *rencontre* equalled her astonishment.

“ Have I then found you at last, my dear Miss Dalrymple !”

“ Dalrymple !” echoed all present.

“ Why, Sir, this is a French lady,” replied Mrs. Scribble; “ Mademoiselle de Lisle.”

“ Indeed, Madam, you are in an error,” replied Herbert: “ this is the daughter of Major Dalrymple, who for these last six months has occasioned the greatest misery to her friends by her concealment. She has been advertised, and such immense rewards offered, that it is wonderful she has not been discovered.”

The orphan now found it advisable to relate, in a partial degree, why she had changed her name, and wished for concealment. When the desert was removed, she beckoned Captain Herbert to follow her, and she then learnt the particulars which have been before related respecting the duel: he assured

her that Lady V— — had been ill ever since ; she was now at Bath for the benefit of the waters ; and he was certain that nothing would so soon accelerate her recovery as Angelina's immediately joining her there. Godolphin and his sister were both, he informed her, in town ; and he should lose no time in giving his friend the pleasing intelligence that she was well, and in a *reputable* house.

The orphan blushed at this remark. Captain Herbert apologised for his rudeness, assuring her that, if his manners were rough, his heart was sincere ; and that he hoped she would consider him amongst the number of her friends. He had not named Augustus, and she did not like to mention him ; yet she was anxious to know what he thought of her, therefore she asked after his sisters.

“ They are, I believe,” said Herbert, “ very well ; but, as to my young

Lord, you, Madam, have a great deal to answer for. I believe, for two months, he never ceased searching after you, either by night or day. Anxiety and fatigue occasioned a fever, and for some days it was doubted whether he would recover. As soon as he was able to travel, he returned to Oxford, where he leads the life of a hermit, and his parents are almost distracted at his alienation from his family. But your being found will set all things to rights, and I consider myself a lucky fellow in having discovered your retreat. I was here about two months since. One of Mrs. Morgan's boys is in my ship; and I generally call, when I come to town, to let her know how the lad goes on."

Angelina requested that he would tell Godolphin where she was, but to conceal her being found from every one else; as, before she addressed Lady V——, she wished to have Godolphin's

opinion. She was resolved never to reside in the same house with Lord V——; but she retired to rest with a heart much more at ease than she had for some time experienced. Her character was cleared from the dreadful crimes imputed to her.

Augustus knew that she was innocent; he still loved her. Now, if she could but hear of her father's safety, she should indeed be happy; for, as to her mother's family, she had given up all hopes of ever being known to them.

It was very late the next morning before she made her appearance at the breakfast table. One of the gentlemen was reading the newspaper when she entered. "God bless me!" he exclaimed; "here is a thousand pounds reward offered by the Duke of B——, if any person can produce a young lady who, in October last, lodged at a Mrs. Snap's, in King's Place: but I will read

the advertisement for the benefit of the party, that you may all have a chance for the reward.

“ ONE THOUSAND POUNDS REWARD.

“ Whereas, in October last, a young lady lodged at Mrs. Snap’s, where she left a diamond clasp, with the initials E. K. and a coronet on the back. The Duke of B——, being extremely interested in the fate of the young lady, offers the above reward to any one who can produce her, or lead to her discovery.”

Angelina’s cup dropped from her hand, and she nearly fainted: this created some suspicion in her friends. After a few minutes’ silence, she thought it best to avow that she was the person, as she evidently saw, by the manner of her companions, that they suspected the truth; but she entreated that no notice should be taken of the advertisement till she had seen Mr. Godolphin, whom she expected every minute: at

the same time she assured those present, that they should, if they pleased, reap the advantage of the reward ; but she depended upon their not taking any steps to discover her till she had seen her friend.

They all assured her that her wishes should be complied with. Mrs. Scribble observed that, in a boarding-house, she could not be at no loss for incidents to compose a Novel ; that the last few weeks had been productive of much matter, which she should endeavour to turn to advantage. The society all looked displeased at this information, as they did not relish the idea of appearing in print ; but they knew the widow would not wound the feelings of any deserving individual, and she tranquillised their alarms by declaring herself in jest.

Godolphin brought his sister with him. Angelina was extremely affected

at the meeting : she had the greatest regard for Godolphin ; and to be assured that she was reinstated in the good opinion of her friends was indeed a heartfelt satisfaction. He proposed that she should return, and take up her residence with his sister ; but this she declined : he looked grave at her refusal ; she therefore assured him, that to cultivate the friendship of his sister would make her extremely happy. also to reside in the same house with her ; but that she had determined to remain where she was, otherwise Lady V—— would expect that she should again become her inmate, which she could not consent to do.

“ If these are, indeed, your reasons, my dear Miss Dalrymple,” said Godolphin, “ I believe that Clarinda will take up her residence with you, for she is anxious to be intimate with the lady of whom she has heard me speak in such

raptures. Lord M—— I expect in town to morrow, and then I suppose I shall be discarded."

"That, Sir, is impossible!" replied the orphan. "I look upon you as ~~my~~ best friend, and I should indeed be an ungrateful creature if I could ever forget the man who has even risked his life in defence of my reputation."

Godolphin took her hand, and sighed.

"I wish you happy, Angelina," he replied, "and I will do all in my power to promote your wishes."

"My joy at seeing you had nearly made me forget to tell you, that I am advertised in the Morning Post of this day," said the orphan: "here is the paper; and tell me what I must do, as the inmates of this house know that I am the person sought after. The clasp mentioned is one which my beloved benefactor, Mr. Moundfort, gave me, and I shall be extremely glad to recover

what the donor has rendered inestimable. But why the Duke of B—— should feel interested in my fate, I cannot fathom.”

“ It is really an extraordinary circumstance,” said Godolphin ; “ but I will immediately wait upon the Duke, and satisfy his curiosity. Clarinda will remain with you, and I hope soon to see the two females who are dearest to my affections inseparable friends.”

“ Recollect,” said the orphan, “ that you must claim the thousand pounds for my messmates, for they are entitled to it; and, should they not get it, they may with some reason accuse me of duplicity.”

Angelina and Clarinda amused themselves by taking a walk in Colvill Grounds: their dispositions assimilated, which soon made them sensible of each other's merit; and Clarinda agreed to become a boarder of Mrs. Morgan's, which was very agreeable to that lady.

In the evening, they were joined by Godolphin and Captain Herbert; the former spoke in private to Angelina: he informed her that he had seen the Duke of B——, who was so agitated that he was scarcely able to attend to him; that he learnt that the clasp had been pawned by Mrs. Snap; that the pawnbroker, considering it to be of great value, had taken it to Rundle and Bridge's, who instantly knew the clasp to have belonged to the Duke of B——, as he had the fellow to it; they therefore requested to have it, that they might ascertain the truth.

“The Duke,” continued Godolphin, “remembered that his son had the fellow clasp to the one in his possession, and he is anxious to know who the young lady is to whom it belonged. The Duke is very infirm, and the mention of his son appears to be accompanied with some poignant recollection.

I told him what I knew of your history, and he appeared lost in thought, for his son has been dead nearly forty years. When he is more composed, he intends seeing you. But have you any thing in the mean time by you, which can throw any light upon this subject?"

"I have an old shagreen case," replied Angelina, "which Mr. Moundfort always appeared to value very much. The last time he spoke to me, he put it into my hand, and told me never to part from it."

"You will trust me with it, my sweet friend," replied Godolphin, "as probably the Duke may know it, and I will shew it to him."

Mrs. Scribble partook in the good fortune of her young friend: she was delighted to see that the orphan would soon be quit of all her troubles; but she reminded her that the next day they must attend at Counsellor ——'s cham-

bers, respecting the criminal investigation.

Godolphin and Captain Herbert proposed attending the ladies, at the same time that they felt great indignation at Captain Trigger's behaviour. Herbert said he recollected the fellow in the Mediterranean, where he was so troublesome, and so disliked, that he was sent to Coventry, and was glad to fabricate some story to get invalided, that he might return to England.

It was agreed that all the party should meet at an early breakfast the next morning, when they were to proceed to Mr. Equity's house, as they were to be sworn before they gave their evidence. Talking of past events and future prospects, the time passed so rapidly, that it was two o'clock before the party separated.

Angelina never closed her eyes all night: she found that joy is equally as

detrimental to rest as sorrow; and she had such a dreadful headach, that she felt unequal to the task which she had to perform. The gentlemen were in high spirits, as they expected great diversion at the criminal investigation; and, if the orphan had not interceded, they would soon have demolished Captain Trigger and his puffs.

CHAP. III.

Between Nose and Eyes a strange contest arose,
 The Spectacles set them unhappily wrong ;
 The point in dispute was, as all the world knows,
 To which the said Spectacles ought to belong.

So the Tongue was the lawyer, and argu'd the cause
 With a great deal of skill and a wig full of learning ;
 While Chief Baron Ear sat to balance the laws,
 So fam'd for his talent in nicely discerning.

“ In behalf of the Nose it will quickly appear,
 And your Lordship,” he said, “ will undoubtedly
 find,
 That the Nose has had Spectacles always in wear,
 Which amounts to possession time out of mind.”

Then, holding the Spectacles up to the Court,
 “ Your Lordship observes they are made with a
 straddle,
 As wide as the ridge of the Nose is ; in short,
 Design'd to sit close to it—just like a saddle.

“ Again : would your Lordship a moment suppose
 (’Tis a case which has happen’d, and may be again)
 That the visage or countenance had not a Nose,
 Pray, who would or who could wear Spectacles
 then ?”

So his Lordship decreed, with a grave solemn tone,
 Decisive and clear, without one If or But,
 That, whenever the Nose put his Spectacles on,
 By day-light or candle-light, Eyes should be shut.

AT an early hour they all repaired to Mr. Equity’s, and as the time approached for their attending before Counsellor —, Angelina became much alarmed, and, if Godolphin and Clarinda had not been with her, she would not have had courage to appear before the learned gentleman.

Captain Trigger was accompanied by General Simple, Captain Discount, and Lieutenant Gallop ; but the latter came only to hold the umbrellas till the gentlemen wanted them, being toad-eater to the party. Captain Trigger’s servant,

and a female servant who had resided at Mrs. Morgan's, and been discarded for nefarious practices, were the witnesses he brought with him; Counsellor Prattle was also of his party.

The ladies were desired to attend, and pay attention to the accusations brought against them, which Counsellor Prattle would state in his learned brief. Accordingly the party took their seats; and visible confusion appeared in Captain Trigger's countenance, when he saw by whom the ladies were attended. The Counsel inquired if all the parties had been sworn; upon which Mr. Equity begged leave to state that the young lady's name was Dalrymple, a daughter of Major Dalrymple's; but, from some reasons which he did not think proper to divulge, he had desired her to take the name of De Lisle when she went to board at his sister's.

General Simple, Captain Discount,

and Captain Trigger, appeared thunder-struck to find that the French girl was really the daughter of an English officer of rank.

Mr. Prattle now began as follows, addressing the Counsel:—

“ Sir, I am desired by my friend and client, Captain Trigger—I say, Sir, Captain Trigger, my friend and client, has desired me to state—Sir, he has requested me to represent—that, holding the exalted rank of Captain in his Majesty’s service, he feels himself compelled to suppress all libellous and republican principles: it is his unbounden duty, Sir, to bring to light treasonable correspondence, which may prove detrimental to the security of our beloved Monarch King George the Third, and his kingdoms; he therefore accuses Tabitha Scribble and Angelina de Lisle, whom I now learn is called Dalrymple, of carrying on nocturnal meetings with

a woman of suspicious character, name unknown ; and that the said Angelina de Lisle, or Dalrymple, does frequently, with a suspicious woman, in the night, accompanied by a French priest, visit the houses of Irish Catholics, give them money, food, and clothes ; that theafore-said Angelina de Lisle, or Dalrymple, is not known to whom she belongs, or from whence she came, or from what funds she derives the supplies of cash which she lavishes on papists ; that the woman Scribble, with the girl mentioned, are of suspicious characters, both of foreign extraction ; and that frequently, in the hearing of the noble and loyal Captain Trigger, they have spoken in approving terms of the manners and customs of neighbouring nations ; that the said woman and girl, when speaking of the enemy of this country, and the terror of all Europe, the monster Buona-
 . parte, said he had eyes, nose, and ears

like a Christian, and that he wore coat, waistcoat, and pantaloons, the same as the princes of England. Now, Sir,—Sir, I say that such language had a republican and treasonable tendency, and that it is the duty of every loyal and good subject to endeavour to bring such culprits to punishment. I repeat, Sir,—Sir, I repeat—that Angelina de Lisle, or Dalrymple, said that Buonaparte, the Emperor of the French, had eyes, nose, and ears—and that he dressed in a coat, waistcoat, and pantaloons, the same as our Princes ;—that the woman Scribble corroborated what the girl advanced, and that such language had the most pernicious and libellous tendency, as the servants who waited at table, by such discourse, were led to believe that the Emperor Buonaparte was like unto another man. Then, Sir,—I say, Sir, then,—this woman and girl held conversation with a suspicious female—name

not known—who offered to provide for Tabitha Scribble if she would write a book to inform the public that the sixteenth hundredth cousin of the present Duke of K——’s great grandfather had a son, whom hereafter might lay claim to the dukedom.

“ I have, Sir, still further to state,— I say I have still further to state, Sir—that the noble and loyal Captain Trigger, who is on all occasions vigilant in promoting the welfare of the nation, as his trigger-puffs will prove, ardently requested to give the said nocturnal incognita in charge to a police officer, which the woman Scribble would not consent to; but, Sir, he felt so extremely miserable at the probability that his not having done so might prove prejudicial to the state, that he, without loss of time, took the opinion of his wise friends, General Simple and Captain Discount; and he has abided by

their profound wisdom, by submitting to your learned judgment how this worthless woman and girl may be brought to their merited punishment; and no doubt, Sir,—I say, Sir, no doubt—you will see the propriety, for the safety of the nation, that they should not only be made examples of for their republican principles, but, to prevent their instilling their pernicious doctrine into innocent minds, be placed in some remote prison; to effect which humane and necessary purpose, you, Sir, will see—I say you will see, Sir—the propriety of this investigation being made public, and recommending that the delinquents may be tried in a public court of justice, where their base and republican principles will meet with the condemnation which they so justly deserve, and where my honourable loyal friend and client Captain Trigger will receive those encomiums which his dis-

interested conduct claims from every well-wisher to their King and country.

“ Indeed, Sir—I say, Sir—indeed I cannot refrain from expressing the indignation which I feel at Tabitha Scribble’s and Angelina de Lisle’s, or Dalrymple’s, behaviour. Only, Sir, conceive—I say, Sir, conceive—only the extent of their crime. At a public boarding-table to advance, that the monster of Europe, the Emperor Buonaparte, has eyes, nose, and ears, and that he wears coat, waistcoat, and pantaloons, like any of our Princes!—Assuredly, Sir—I say, Sir, assuredly—it is needless for me to say more, to impress the heinousness of their offence upon your learned mind.”

Counsellor —— was not only a gentleman of the most brilliant abilities, but in every respect of the most polished manners. It was very difficult for him to retain that becoming gravity which was

absolutely indispensable in his situation. During the curious and inelegant speech of Mr. Prattle, he was under the necessity of having recourse to the newspaper, to conceal his sentiments of the trash submitted to his serious attention. Godolphin and Captain Herbert were several times called to order, as their violent burst of laughter discomposed Mr. Prattle; and the ladies, upon hearing their accusation, could only feel contempt and pity for the silly and spiteful person who had so exposed himself.

As soon as Counsellor Prattle had in some measure recovered from the fatigue which the exertion in delivering such an able speech had occasioned, he began to examine the witnesses. The first called was General Simple : he was desired to state what he knew of the disloyalty and republican principles of Mrs. Tabitha Scribble, and Angelina de Lisle, alias Dalrymple. The little

man had an impediment in his speech, and the agitation which his loyal feelings experienced on this occasion considerably augmented this detriment in an auditor. At last he stated, that his friend Captain Trigger had waited on him, as he felt himself in duty bound to do, to consult with him what measure he had best pursue to stop the dangerous principles of republicanism from being further propagated which existed in the house in which he boarded; that he had recommended a criminal information.

“ But pray, Sir,” said Counsellor —, “ is this all you know on the subject? Did you never hear the ladies hold forth on political subjects, and express the republican principles which you and your friends are come here to substantiate?”

“ Oh! no, Sir,” replied General Simple: “ I only know what Cap-

tain Trigger told me. I was once acquainted with Mrs. Tabitha Scribble, but I never saw the other lady before in all my life."

Counsellor —— smiled, and General Simple was dismissed.

The next person called upon for his evidence was Captain Discount: he was a gentleman of address, and bowed very politely to all the company present.

"I shall be much obliged to you, Sir," said Mr. Prattle, "to state what you know respecting the diabolical republican principles of Mrs. Tabitha Scribble and Angelina Dalrymple, alias De Lisle."

"Why, Sir, my friend General Simple informed me that his friend Captain Trigger resided in a boarding-house where two foreigners frequently spoke of the manners and customs of neighbouring nations with approbation; that

the rest of the inmates listened with apparent satisfaction to such conversation ; and that Captain Trigger was of opinion that such republican doctrine was of pernicious consequences to the state : I therefore recommended General Simple to advise the loyal Captain to lay information of such criminal proceedings."

" But pray, Sir," requested Counsellor ——, " will you have the goodness to state what you have yourself heard from either of the ladies which could induce you to accuse them of republican principles ?"

" Sir," replied Captain Discount, " Miss Dalrymple I never saw till this day, and I have not seen Mrs. Scribble for some years."

" This, then, Sir," said Counsellor ——, " is all the information you can give on the subject for which you come here !"

“ All, indeed, Sir.” He bowed *en courtier*, and retired.

Mr. Prattle now requested that Captain Trigger might give his evidence: accordingly he came forward, and with pathetic emotion stated, that his feelings on the present occasion almost rendered him incapable of doing justice to his cause; for it was very repugnant to his humanity to be compelled to accuse two females of republican principles, especially the widow, and, as he now understood, the daughter of an officer; but his duty to his King and Country induced him, for the good of the Constitution, to do violence to his own peace of mind rather than endanger the nation. That he had taken up his residence at Mrs. Morgan’s boarding-house, in Chelsea; that the widow Scribble, and Miss de Lisle, or Dalrymple, were also inmates; that they were of foreign extraction, and had pass-

ed much of their time in neighbouring nations; that the aforesaid ladies did frequently, in his hearing, say that the enemies of this country, the French, were a polished people; that residing in that country was attended with considerable less expence than living in England; that their manners were fascinating; that when he (Captain Trigger) accused them of being a rough, artful, designing set of people, who ought to be extirpated from the face of the globe, the widow Scribble said that she thought such language illiberal; that she considered that in every nation there were good and bad people; that, if the French possessed less sincerity than the English, their polished manners prevented their wounding the feelings of any individual by rude remarks, which, she was sorry to say, too frequently happened in this country from English bluntness.

“ Now, Sir,” still addressing Counsellor —, “ assuredly you must allow that such doctrine was of republican tendency, and must induce weak people to prefer the French to the English nation. Then, Sir, the said widow Scribble did see and converse with a woman of suspicious appearance, who only came in the night ; and she would not allow me to give her in charge of a police officer, nor could I gain from Mrs. Scribble who the woman was. I have still further to state, that Angelina Dalrymple, or De Lisle, did in my presence frequently propagate republican principles, saying that our great enemy Buonaparte had eyes, nose, and ears, like unto another man, and that he wore coat, waistcoat, and pantaloons, like our Princes.

“ Now, Sir, you must allow that such discourse was highly improper, and that, as a Captain in his Britannic

Majesty's service, it is my duty to bring such rebels to justice : added to which, the said Angelina Dalrymple, or De Lisle, did of a night, accompanied by an old woman and a priest, frequent the houses of Irish papists and foreigners, giving them money and food ; that the said girl is not known to any respectable person, and how she gets the sums which she lavishes on the worthless is not known : but, after what I have stated, I have no doubt that a gentleman of your great learning and profound penetration will take measures to stop this pernicious method of propagating republican principles."

" Is this, Sir," inquired Counsellor —, " the whole of your accusation against the ladies ?"

" I wish, Sir," replied the Captain, spreading his hand on his breast, and heaving a deep sigh, " that it had not fallen to my lot to be compelled to

prove the libellous and republican conversations of these unfortunate women !”

Mr. Prattle complimented his loyal friend and client Captain Trigger on his oratory ; said that he had heard from some friends of his, who attended the British Forum and the Finish in Covent-Garden, of his wonderful eloquence ; and he was now convinced that their great encomiums were only barely doing justice to his talents.

Mr. Prattle now desired that the witness John Cartridge should be examined : he entered.

“ You are Captain Trigger’s servant ?”

“ I am a soldier, please your Worship ; and the Captain gives me a shilling a week to wear a livery coat, and black his boots, and wait at table.”

Mr. Prattle told him that he was Captain Trigger’s servant, and that he must state what he had heard when he waited

upon his master at Mrs. Morgan's table, about Buonaparte and the French.

“ Why, please your Worship, master told me to say that Mrs. Scribble and that pratty young lady talked treason ; as how that, when Mrs. Morgan axed Miss there if she had ever seen Boney, that she answered yes. ‘ And what is he like ? ’ said Mrs. Morgan. ‘ Like to other men,’ said pratty Miss : ‘ he has eyes, nose, and ears.’ All the company laughed at this. ‘ Well, then,’ said Mrs. Morgan, ‘ how does he dress ? very fine, I suppose ? ’ ‘ On the contrary,’ said Miss, ‘ he dresses as plain as the English Princes ; generally, in a morning, in a pepper and salt coat, with waistcoat and pantaloons to suit.’ ”

“ Is this the whole which you have to relate upon this momentous business ? ” said Counsellor —.

“ All, please your Worship, which I can recollect. Captain Trigger told me

to say a great deal more ; but I have a baddish memory, and I believe I have not now said all which he made me repeat."

Counsellor —— shook his head : the witness retired, and Mr. Prattle looked confounded ; but he requested that Sally Nimble might now be called. She made her appearance.

" Well, my good girl," said Mr. Prattle, " do not be alarmed ; no one will hurt you. Speak out, and say all which you know about these ladies, and what they used to say about the French."

" I beant at all afraid, please your Worship, for I have been twice before the justices at Bow-street, and once at the Old Bailey. There be the French woman who boarded at Mrs. Morgan's when I lived as servant there. Mrs. Scribble used to say, that French land was a fine country ; that she lived very

cheap there ; that all the French people were polite : and Miss de Lisle said the same ; she also said as how that Boney was like to other men, and not a monster, as Captain Trigger said, for he had eyes, nose, and ears ; that he wore a coat waistcoat, and pantaloons, just as Christian folks do. Then, Sir, to be sure, a woman came to the widow Scribble at night, and Captain Trigger told me she came for no good ; all that she came for, was for popery, papists, and the like. And young Miss there, she had an old woman come to her : all they did was in secret. Then she, and Miss, and the priest, used to go out at night, but no one knowed where."

"Go on," said Counsellor —.

"Please your Worship, I have nothing more to say."

Mr. Prattle then addressed Counsellor — as follows:—

“ I trust, Sir—I say, Sir, I trust—that the clear and concise evidence of the respectable witnesses which I have just examined will clearly prove to you the libellous and republican tendency of the widow Scribble’s and Miss de Lisle’s, or Dalrymple’s conversation; and that, for the good of our beloved Monarch and his kingdoms, such proceeding should be stopped, by taking measures to confine the parties.”

Counsellor—— did not interrupt Mr. Prattle, but he gave him such a look as made the little man shrink into nothing.

“ I am surprised, Sir,” he said, “ that you should take the liberty of retaining me to hear such nonsensical trash; it by no means redounds to the honour of you or your client, as it is evident that bombast and malice occasioned Captain Trigger to threaten two females with a criminal prosecution: and give me leave

to add, that I am sorry to find any gentleman in our profession engage to defend such a cause."

Mr. Equity now arrested the attention of Counsellor —: he stated that he only begged leave to bring forward two witnesses; that he confessed that he did this only to annoy the loyal Captain Trigger, as he was sure that Counsellor — was convinced that the ladies for whom he had the honour to be employed were innocent of the crimes alleged against them.

Counsellor — assured him that he was ashamed of being retained in such a cause; that, of course, he would hear any witnesses which he thought proper to produce; at the same time he considered such proceeding as quite unnecessary.

Mr. Equity then introduced the Private Secretary of the Secretary of State, to whom the ladies had related the story

of their maniac visitor. The gentleman recited the same to Counsellor —; after which Mrs. Morgan came forward, and stated that the insane lady called again upon Mrs. Scribble, who refused seeing her; upon which, Mrs. Morgan told her that the widow was from home. The poor creature began abusing Mrs. Morgan; said that she and Mrs. Scribble were concerned in a plot against her; that she had walked and ran the night before for several hours, to escape from the men which Mrs. Scribble had sent to murder her: she then left the house. Mrs. Morgan sent a person to watch where she went; but she perceived that she was followed, upon which she stopped, and told the woman that it was in vain to watch her, for that she would walk till she dropped before she should know where she resided: of course, as the person found she could not succeed in her embassy,

she returned home, and they had never heard of the unfortunate maniac since.

Mr. Equity then produced Père St. Paul's letter, in which he commissions Angelina to be his almoner, and he explained that Mrs. Last was the person, with a respectable French priest, who accompanied the orphan in her charitable excursions.

Thus ended the criminal investigation.

Godolphin and Captain Herbert looked very contemptuously at Captain Trigger and his comrades; and, as they did not find their situation very comfortable, they called to Lieutenant Gallop for their great coats and umbrellas.

As they left the room, General Simple and Lieutenant Gallop exclaimed,

“ Well! if what we have heard has not a republican tendency, what can be called treason? and what will the world at last come to?”

Angelina and her party were congratulated by Counsellor —— on the happy issue of the criminal investigation. The gentlemen were for making an example of Captain Trigger, by the ladies prosecuting him for defamation; but Counsellor —— thought him such a contemptible reptile, that it would be making him of too much consequence to notice his malicious behaviour: as it was, he would suffer pretty severely, as the expence of the investigation would fall on him.

It was nearly four o'clock before they left Counsellor ——'s chambers. Godolphin wished to prevail on the ladies to dine in town, and go to the theatre in the evening; but they all felt so fatigued, that they declined accepting of his proposal, and insisted upon his and Captain Herbert's returning with them to Chelsea. This was much more agreeable to Angelina, as she expected

to see Lord M——, and to meet him in public would have been very unpleasant to her feelings. He arrived just in time to partake of their family dinner: he was in great spirits, and our heroine gave him such a reception as proved the interest which he had in her heart. Godolphin took his leave early in the evening, telling the orphan that the next morning he should see the Duke of B——, and shew him the shagreen case.

After his departure, Angelina had some private conversation with Augustus: he told her that she was the arbitress of his fate; and he hoped she would be merciful, and soon terminate his misery, by fixing an early day when she would honour him with her hand. She was above coquetry, and she ingenuously confessed that her happiness was inseparable from his wishes; but still it was repugnant to her feelings to enter into

any matrimonial engagement till she knew the fate of her father.

“ The happiness of being once more in your company, my dear Miss Dalrymple,” replied Lord M——, “ made me forget to mention that I have a packet for you from Holland, a duplicate, I believe, of the one which you lost at Margate ; and I trust it will enable you to find out where Major Dalrymple now is. But surely, my sweet friend, he could have no objection to your taking me as a protector ; and, from what has passed, it is evident that you are in want of one.”

The conversation concluded by her consenting to unite her fate with his, as soon as Lord G——’s sentiments were known, of which Augustus said he had no fears ; for his family had been so miserable at seeing the melancholy state to which he was reduced by his anxiety

on her account, that they would meet his wishes on this occasion with avidity.

Some time elapsed in the most delightful manner. Angelina received letters from Lady V—— and Lord M——'s sister, professing the great affection which they entertained for her. Lord V—— wrote to make apologies for his past behaviour, and to assure her, if she would make his wife happy by residing in his house, he would atone for his past conduct by his respectful behaviour in future. She answered these letters in such a manner as to give satisfaction to the persons to whom they were addressed, but declined, for the present, becoming an inmate of Lord V——'s house.

Since Augustus' arrival in town, Godolphin only came to Chelsea when business required his presence there. He called one morning to tell Angelina that

the Duke of B—— requested to see her, and, if agreeable to her, he would conduct her to him.

“Certainly I shall be glad of you as an escort,” replied Angelina, “but it is strange that he can wish to see me, whom he knows nothing of; and I confess that I feel extremely averse to the visit.”

“And pray tell me,” said Godolphin, “to whom I am to pay the thousand pounds, for I have an order for the money?”

“Mrs. Morgan must decide that,” replied the orphan; “but I think only three were present, therefore they had better divide it between them.”

Captain Brave at this moment entered, who had read the advertisement, and they mentioned the subject on which they were speaking to him. He instantly settled the weighty point.

“I am,” he said, “a single man,

with a competence beside my pay: were I to lay claim to any part of the sum, I should consider that I robbed the widow and the orphans of their right; therefore pray divide the sum between Mrs. Scribble and Mrs. Morgan: it will be of service to them; and I am pleased to think that they will reap a benefit which the donor will never miss."

Godolphin disposed of the money as the Captain had recommended; they then proceeded to London.

For the first time, Miss Dalrymple felt a restraint in Godolphin's company: he was grave, and for some minutes a silence prevailed. It was broken by her companion.

"You will soon, my young friend," said Godolphin, "give your hand to Lord M——, and I sincerely hope that you will be as happy as you deserve: he is calculated to make you a good husband, and, since I cannot possess the

treasure of your heart, I would rather hear of your being united to him than to any other man. Clarinda is nearly as partial to you as her brother, and we shall both return to Ireland to think of you, and regret the want of your charming society. Some years hence, probably, I may have reconciled myself to your loss; then I will return to England, and solicit your friendship."

Angelina was much affected at this address from Godolphin, for she had the greatest opinion of his judgment, and a sincere esteem for him. Sometimes she even doubted her own heart, and which she liked best, him or Lord M——; she therefore assured him that his society and friendship were necessary to her happiness, and entreated that he would not think of leaving England.

"You know not what you ask, Miss Dalrymple: if I stay here, I shall be miserable."

The carriage stopped at this moment at the Duke of B——'s. The orphan felt her situation very distressing, and when she was ushered into the Duke's apartment, from the agitation of her spirits, she nearly fainted. He was himself scarcely less affected.

"I am, Madam," he said, "to entreat your pardon for the public measure which I adopted to get introduced to you, and also to apologise for the trouble which I have given you of coming here; but my infirm and feeble state at present precludes my leaving the house."

She desired he would not think of apologising to her, as she was happy to give him any information in her power respecting the clasp which she had lost. He then requested that she would circumstantially relate every thing she knew of Mr. Moundfort, which she did; and the pathetic and grateful manner in which she expressed his kindness to her,

brought tears into the Duke of B——'s eyes. After she had finished her recital, he asked her if she knew what the shagreen case contained. She replied, only some tooth-picks.

“Do you, my dear Madam, think you would recollect Mr. Moundfort's picture if you were to see it?”

“Most assuredly : I recollect him perfectly.”

The Duke then produced the shagreen case. He touched a spring, when the lid flew up, and discovered two miniatures.

Angelina, bursting into tears, exclaimed, “That is, indeed, the resemblance of my more than father—my beloved friend and protector, Mr. Moundfort ; but a younger man than I recollect him. The lady, I think,” said the orphan, “is like Lady V——.”

“Lady V——!” said the Duke : “so surely it is !”

He remained for some time lost in thought, and the orphan respected his grief too much to interrupt it: at length he said,

“ There is a mystery in this affair, my dear Miss Dalrymple, that I must fathom. Mr. Moundfort, whom you so sincerely regret, was my son, whom I had concluded to be dead nearly forty years; and why he should have absented himself from his family and country I cannot divine: but I feel a strong interest in your welfare. Your having been the object of my son's affection, endears you to me. Look in future upon me as your father. Mr. Godolphin has told me how deserving you are of every one's attention; and, in future, I hope you will do me the favour to consider me as your banker. I shall immediately settle such an income on you as Frederick, I am sure, would have done, had he been spared to us: but I

confess I am not disinterested in making this offer, for, in return, I shall expect that you will often indulge an unhappy old man with your company, to talk of his darling son and your beloved benefactor."

Angelina was so affected at the manner and generosity of the old Duke, that she found it difficult to convey to him her sense of his kindness; indeed, she seemed quite bewildered in her imagination. That Mr. Moundfort, who resided in France in such a retired manner, should be the son of a duke, appeared to her scarcely credible.

Godolphin waited to accompany her home. She communicated to him her conversation with the Duke, and she proposed calling in Portman Square for the Dutch packet which Lord M—— had for her, as, she said, her curiosity was now so strongly excited, that she wished to sift to the bottom this extra-

ordinary story. Accordingly they got the packet, and proceeded with it to the person to whom it was addressed, Monsieur La Lav, merchant, in Fenchurch-street. Fortunately he was at home, and, after perusing the letters contained in the parcel, he addressed himself to Angelina:

“ My correspondent, Madam, informs me that you are much interested in the fate of a Major Dalrymple, and that you are also anxious to know to whom you have been indebted for the care of your infancy, your education, and numberless other benefits. Prepare yourself, my dear young lady, for a great surprise. Mr. Moundfort was the son of the Duke of B——; my brother was a priest, and his particular friend and confessor. A disastrous attachment, and his being a Catholic, determined him to leave England. Once a year he visited me, when he took such

supplies of money with him as he considered adequate to his expences. Through me he provided for Major Dalrymple, who does not yet know the rank of his benefactor, excepting the ten thousand pounds for which he insured his life, and which policies were for your advantage: the residue of his fortune he left to a Convent in Lisbon. But it gives me great pleasure to tell you that I have this moment almost had a letter from Major Dalrymple: he has been a prisoner above three years; but he has made his escape, and is expected home in the next fleet."

The various emotions which Angelina had experienced during the morning were too much for her spirits, and the last pleasing intelligence deprived her of life: she fell senseless on the ground, and it was a considerable time before the usual remedies made use of on such occasions had the desired effect.

Monsieur la Lay was extremely shocked at seeing her reduced to such a state, and blamed himself for being so abrupt in his communication; but she soon regained her usual presence of mind, and assured him that she was quite recovered, and extremely happy to find that she was no longer an orphan, but had the prospect of soon being pressed to the bosom of an affectionate father. She then requested Godolphin to tell Monsieur la Lay what had passed at the Duke of B——'s; when that gentleman promised that he would wait on that nobleman, and tell him what had induced the Marquis of K—— to leave England, and end his days at a distance from his family.

CHAP. IV.

Weak and irresolute is man ;
 The purpose of to-day,
 Woven with pains into his plan,
 To-morrow rends away.

Bound on a voyage of awful length,
 And dangers little known,
 A stranger to superior strength,
 Man vainly trusts his own.

But oars alone can ne'er prevail
 To reach the distant coast ;
 The breath of Heav'n must swell the sail,
 Or all the toil is lost.

IF Augustus had a fault in his character, it arose from a tincture of jealousy. From Miss Dalrymple's indisposition, she had remained longer in the city than she expected, and it was

six in the evening before she returned to Chelsea.

Lord M—— hardly spoke to Mr. Godolphin when he entered, and, with a petulance in his manner, hoped that Angelina had passed her time much to her satisfaction. Indeed, he could not doubt it, from the length of her visit. She was hurt at the coldness in his manner, and, pleading a very bad head-ach, retired with Clarinda to her apartment.

Augustus took up his hat, but Godolphin said,

“ My Lord, you cannot go yet: I must have some private conversation with you. It is proper you should be informed of the wonderful discovery which has taken place this day ; but all this must be deferred till I have some dinner, for I am really fatigued with doing *nothing*, and very hungry.”

The family were just removing from

the parlour when Miss Dalrymple returned, and Mrs. Morgan now proposed to leave the gentlemen by themselves. Augustus was then informed of all the occurrences of the morning. His Lordship begged Godolphin's pardon for his petulance.

“But assuredly, my dear friend, you will make some allowances for me; for, of all men in the world, you are, in my opinion, the most dangerous as a rival.”

“Never, I entreat, my Lord, name that word to me; I hold it as an insult to my feelings: for have I not been rejected by the lady who has consented to unite herself with you?”

Lord M—— took Godolphin by the hand:

“I am always committing some error or other; but, believe me, I appreciate your friendship as it merits.”

Godolphin wrote a note for his sister before he went, desiring her to commu-

nicate to Angelina that he had informed Augustus of the particulars of their perambulation, and making such allowances for his Lordship's manner of receiving Miss Dalrymple, as shewed his generosity of heart, and the ardent desire he had to promote her felicity.

From this period for some weeks Angelina was as happy as being with those we love can render us. Monsieur la Lay had explained to the Duke of B—— the reason of his son's leaving England, and that gentleman was deputed by his Grace to wait upon the Duchess, to insist upon knowing who was present when Arminda was delivered, and where the child was buried.

The Duchess of B—— was at this time in a deplorable state, from dissipation; she was reduced to the last stage of a consumption, and scarcely able to converse with Monsieur la Lay. When she found that the Duke knew the ex-

tent of her wickedness, she became quite a frantic person ; supplicated for mercy ; confessed that her grandchild had been sent abroad ; that she regularly had paid a sum for her maintenance, and also allowed a great salary to the person to whom she had consigned the child. She said that, about two years since, the woman to whom she had consigned the child had come to her, saying that she could not die in peace with the weight of sin which she had on her conscience ; for that she had not only appropriated nearly all the money which was allowed for the Duchess's grandchild to herself, but that the young lady had married an English officer, and left France nearly seventeen years ; consequently that she had since that period defrauded the Duchess of the money allowed for her support : she also confessed that she had been very negligent in paying for her board and lodging to

the lady with whom she resided, and that, to preclude the possibility of her being known, she was called Georgiana Clermont.

The Duchess gave Monsieur la Lay the woman's address ; and he gained such satisfactory intelligence from her, as to clearly prove that Mrs. Dalrymple was grand-daughter to the Duke of B——. His Grace frequently sent for Miss Dalrymple, and he settled a handsome income on her : he approved of her marrying Lord M—— ; but his repugnance to any communication with Lady V—— still remained : he could not bear to hear her name mentioned.

She was just arrived from Bath, and the Duchess took upon herself to communicate to her daughter the impositions which had been practised on her. She desired that Angelina would be present at the discovery, as she concluded that Lady V—— would be so delighted

at finding that her young favourite was so nearly allied to her, that she would forgive the past, in contemplating her present happiness : but the result of the communication was such as to embitter every future moment of the Duchess of B——'s life ; for, when Lady V—— learned that her beloved Lord and brother was alive when she married Lord V——, to describe her agony is impossible. She exclaimed,

“ Then, Madam, you have occasioned my committing incest and adultery ! You have made me abandon my child !—Unhappy wretch !” she continued ; “ you are my mother, but you are a disgrace to your sex !”

Angelina endeavoured to pacify her, but it was in vain : she repulsed her with scorn.

“ I cannot look at you without bringing my unnatural crimes to my recollection. My brain is on fire ! Take

that vile old woman from my sight," pointing to the Duchess: "she is the devil!"

She became so mad, that they were under the necessity of calling for assistance; but Lady V—— snatched up a pen-knife which lay on the table, and, repeatedly stabbing herself with it, said to the Duchess,

"Now, Madam, your wickedness is complete! I add this crime to the others you imposed on me: I go to join my husband, my brother, and my child!" when she expired.

Miss Dalrymple, it will naturally be supposed, with her fine understanding, bore this afflicting scene with that firmness and feeling which she was so blessed with; indeed, the lamentable situation of the Duchess engrossed all her attention, for the miserable creature, for the first time in her life, felt remorse. Lady V—— had possessed all the affection

she was capable of feeling, and the manner in which she died was well calculated to rouse the sleeping conscience of the vilest sinner.

The Duchess of B—— clung to Angelina, and implored her protection: she entreated that she would not leave her.

“Speak! oh, speak!” she exclaimed, “peace and comfort to my distracted heart! I now feel my crimes, and anticipate the punishment of the wicked!”

Miss Dalrymple was contemplating the miserable scene before her eyes, debarred the power of articulation; and it was some time before she could collect her hurried imagination to decide what method she had best pursue. The medical gentlemen who had been sent for to the assistance of Lady V—— were arrived, and they declared that it was beyond their skill to afford any relief to her, as the wounds had already

proved mortal. Angelina directed their attention to the Duchess; and they assured her that the shock she had received, with the violence of her disposition, must soon terminate her existence.

By this time Godolphin and Lord M—— arrived: they took upon them to break to Lord V—— and the Duke of B—— the melancholy events which had taken place, and entreated that Angelina would quit a place which had been, and still was, a scene of horror.

That, she said, was impossible; for the Duchess had made her promise not to leave her; and although she had no respect for such a character, humanity and religion taught her that it was her duty to comfort the unhappy. She requested that Clarinda would come to her, for, she said, she required the gentleness and tenderness of her friend

to enable her to retain any degree of fortitude in the present trying situation. The gentlemen left her with great regret; for her pallid countenance proved that, although she bore the afflicting scenes which she had witnessed with patient resignation, she felt the full force of them.

The Duchess of B——, after a short sleep, seemed more composed. She addressed Angelina in a supplicating tone :

“ See in me,” she said, “ the fate of the wicked. I have lived what is called a life of pleasure—envied by three parts of the world—my society courted, and I vainly supposed that I had many friends. You now see me on the bed of sickness and of death; deserted by those friends who have, by countenancing my actions, rendered me what I now am,—a miserable wretch!—cursed by

the child whom I adored—without one solitary hope in this world, and dreading my fate hereafter !”

Miss Dalrymple did all in her power to console the Duchess ; she entreated that she would have a clergyman sent for, and, by attending to his doctrine, obtain hope and faith in her Redeemer.

“ How can I expect, at this late hour of my life,” replied the Duchess, “ to learn religion ? Rather, that I may end the short remnant which remains of my existence here in peace, tell me that there is not a hereafter !”

Angelina till now had supported herself with surprising fortitude ; but this speech of the Duchess so shocked her feelings, that she left the room with precipitation, and, if tears had not come to her aid, assuredly she would have fainted. She entreated Clarinda, who was just come, to desire that one of the Duchess’s chaplains might be sent for.

When he arrived, Miss Dalrymple stated the miserable situation of the Duchess's mind, and implored the divine to administer comfort to her miserable departing spirit.

The friends now retired to the chamber prepared for them, as they requested to be together. Angelina lamented the loss of Lady V——, whom she sincerely loved : she confessed that it was repugnant to her feelings to remain where she was, but she considered it her duty to do so. At an early hour the next morning she inquired after the Duchess, and she was pleased to hear that she had passed a quieter night than could have been expected ; that she had had two clergymen with her ; and that, whenever her strength permitted her attending to them, she had made a confession of all her crimes, which seemed to have relieved her conscience.

When Miss Dalrymple went to her,

she thanked her for having sent her chaplains to her; she lamented that in the younger part of her life she had not associated with virtuous and wise persons, as she attributed her crimes to having never been with good people, who would tell her when she was wrong. She continued :

“ They called themselves my friends, and I foolishly considered them as such, because they contributed to my pleasures, and flattered my vanity; and now I go to receive the reward of my misdeeds ! But God knows my heart, and that, though late, my repentance is sincere. I hope the agonizing scene which I yesterday witnessed will be considered a severe punishment. Indeed, mine has been a life of misery ; for, if I experienced pleasures, they were accompanied by dread, remorse, and shame ! ”

Angelina was delighted to hear her

speak so rationally, and for some days she continued in this placid and proper state ; but nature visibly declined every hour, and she became perfectly imbecile ; in which deplorable situation she remained for nearly a month, when she expired.

As soon as the funeral was over, Angelina prepared to return to her peaceable abode with Mrs. Morgan ; but, on the morning of the interment, Mr. Godolphin delivered her a packet : it was from the Duke of B——, being a deed of gift of the late Duchess of B——'s house and estate ; and saying, if she valued his peace and happiness, she would reside in it, with a suitable establishment.

Lord M—— pointed out the propriety of her doing as the Duke directed. His family were all come to town, and very anxious to see Augustus married to Miss Dalrymple, as such patron-

age as the Duke of B—— reconciled them to the match; but Angelina still persisted that she would enter into no matrimonial engagement yet. She had lately had her spirits much depressed. Lady V——'s death was a shock which she had by no means recovered.

Lady G——, or one of her daughters, were constantly with Miss Dalrymple, and she mixed very little in society; but she convinced those friends who had known and been kind to her in adversity, that she was deserving of the change in her situation.

She was one day informed that a very deplorable-looking young woman desired to be admitted. When she appeared, Angelina had no recollection of her person.

“I do not wonder, Madam,” said the girl, “that you do not know me: I am Cecilia Snap: I come to solicit charity. I am aware that I am unworthy

of your notice ; but I am starving, in want of the necessaries of life ; and, my mother dying, my only dependance for relief is on you ; and I feel assured, that, as you have the power, you will not deny me a trifle to smooth the pillow of sickness, and blunt the sting of death to my wretched parent."

" Poor unfortunate creature !" said Miss Dalrymple ; " sit down, and tell me what is now your occupation, or how I can assist to place you in a respectable way of getting your living. You must be candid in what you tell me : it is only by being accurately informed of your situation that I can serve you. Have you any respectable connections who will assist me in promoting your welfare ? When I formerly knew you, I formed a better opinion of your morals than of the others with whom you associated : I hope I shall not find myself mistaken, and that you

will give me the greatest of all earthly enjoyment, by enabling me to be instrumental in returning you to the path of virtue and of happiness."

Cecilia cried most bitterly :

" I am, indeed," she said, " a miserable and also an unfortunate wretch, plunged into infamy by the parent who should have lent his fostering hand to save me from perdition. If you have patience, Madam, to attend to my unhappy story, if you condemn, you will also feel pity for the miserable object of your attention !"

She looked so feeble, that Angelina made her take some refreshment before she proceeded with her melancholy tale.

" My father, Madam, was a Lieutenant in a marching regiment ; he was the younger son of a Sir Robert Marchmont. At a country assembly he met with my mother ; she was the daughter also of a subaltern officer. Suffice it to

say, that she eloped to Gretna Green with my father. For some months the young couple were happy; but, when my father found that Sir R. M—— resented the step he had taken so strongly as to withdraw the liberal allowance he had been accustomed to make him, and to refuse ever having any communication with him in future, he began to consider what he had done. This brought on an investigation of my mother's character; and he was compelled to allow that he had married a woman who had only beauty to recommend her.

“ As she possessed a violent temper, her education had been neglected, and she only valued herself upon her personal attractions. When she found that she was not to be received by her husband's family, and that she must submit to the greatest privations to make their limited income afford them even

the necessaries of life, she accused my father of having deceived her; confessed that only the prospect of rank and riches induced her to marry him, as her heart had no share in the election. This behaviour soon extinguished the little love which her husband had retained for her.

“ Lord V—— was Colonel of my father’s regiment: he, Madam, you know, is a man of gallantry, and he soon found out on what terms my parents were. He flattered my mother, and offered her those luxuries if she would reside with him, which, in her estimation, she considered the summit of all earthly felicity. She listened to his proposals, and placed herself under his protection. A few months after her residence with Lord V——, I was born; but my father refused receiving me: he obtained a divorce, and from that hour till his death, some years

after, my mother had no communication with him. He bequeathed one thousand pounds to me.

“ Lord V——, in a couple of years, turned my unfortunate parent adrift. She passed from one dissipated character to another, till she became an outcast of society; and, shocking to relate, she was obliged to apply to her parish for assistance. For these last five years she has been in a workhouse. My lot, Madam, you may suppose, was to be educated in a scene of vice and infamy; and, at fifteen years of age, I was placed in the same situation by Lord V—— in which he had supported my parent at my birth.

“ Accident produced this unnatural connection, and, when I found out who was my keeper, I left him with disgust; but it was he that placed me with Mrs. Snap; and, had he not done so, I must have starved, for I

knew of no one to apply to for relief. It would shock your delicacy to recite the various miserable scenes which I have endured for these last two years. Mrs. Snap turned me out of doors some months since. I have experienced want and misery; and my mother is now expected hourly to expire, with no other comforts than what a workhouse affords!"

Angelina relieved her wants for the present, and assured her that she would prove a sincere friend, if she would return to the path of righteousness and truth. Cecilia departed with less dejection of spirits than she had known for a long time.

After she was gone, Miss Dalrymple consulted with her amiable friend Clarinda what method she should adopt to place the unhappy sinner in a comfortable situation: they both moralized on the depravity of the times, and lament-

ed the numerous afflictions which every day took place from Crim. Con. Lord V——, ever since the duel, had been in such a weak state as scarcely to leave his house. Angelina hoped that sickness and disappointment had made him reflect upon his past life, and she resolved to rouse his attention to enable him to make all the reparation he had in his power, by letting him know that she knew of his former connection with Mrs. Marchmont. She wrote the following few lines to him :

“ My Lord,

“ THE miserable, the unfortunate Cecilia has been to implore my compassion : she is very ill, and starving. Her mother, *Mrs. Marchmont*, is on her death bed, without one comfort to smooth the pillow of sickness, or, I fear, a hope of happiness hereafter. Have these wretched females no

claims on your Lordship's humanity? Is it not the duty of those who have plunged them into misery to relieve them?

" I have the honour to remain,

" My Lord,

" Your obedient, &c.

" ANGELINA DALRYMPLE.

" N. B. Mrs. and Miss Marchmont are in Mary-le-bone Workhouse."

Cecilia called to inform Miss Dalrymple that Lord V—— had sent to them fifty pounds, and had settled one hundred per annum on them; that her mother was better; and that they were going, as soon as she was able, into the country. Angelina told her that she would give her a sufficient sum to purchase furniture, and then she hoped that they would pass the remainder of their lives in atoning for their past offences. The poor creature took her leave very

respectfully, and promised to devote her future life to her Maker.

Miss Dalrymple could not help expressing to Lord M — her surprise that, amongst all the magnificent charities with which the English nation abounded, there were not any schools or institutions for the female orphans of officers. All other classes in society had asylums: the Royal Military and Naval Colleges protected and provided for male orphans of officers; the Royal Naval and Military Asylums educated the soldiers' and seamen's children; but the female orphans of officers had no place appropriated for them, and too frequently, from their morals and education being neglected in their youth, they became a prey to designing, dissipated men, and, instead of being an ornament, frequently became a disgrace to society.

She entreated his Lordship to use his influence to have a seminary established

for the relief of female orphans of officers, as assuredly such a charitable institution had only to be proposed to the public to be immediately sanctioned. His Lordship assured her that her humane wishes should be attended to, and that he had no doubt that, before the expiration of the year, such a seminary would be in great forwardness.

Angelina had just recovered from the melancholy which the death of the Duchess of B—— and Lady V—— had occasioned, when her father arrived from India. It may be supposed that such a meeting was extremely affecting: he had experienced great hardships during the time he had been a prisoner; but he enjoyed good health, from having been always very abstemious. He had realized a handsome fortune: he found his daughter all that the fondest father could wish; and his happiness seemed to be complete. His own fami-

ly connections resided in Scotland, and he was anxious to visit them; but the Duke of B—— entreated that he and his daughter would postpone such a journey. He felt, he said, that, at his advanced period in life, he could not expect to live long; that the society of Angelina was necessary to his happiness; and that in the Major he considered he had found a sincere friend, in whom he could confide to superintend and manage his concerns, which task he now felt himself unequal to perform.

Lord G—— was now anxious that Augustus's marriage should immediately take place, and Angelina could no longer plead any reason for not complying with Lord M——'s wishes. When they consulted her respecting settlements, she desired that her father would decide on that subject.

Godolphin went to Ireland, having, as he said, some business of consequence

which demanded his presence there ; but it was the general opinion that he only pleaded such concerns as an excuse, as he did not like to be in England at the time of Angelina's wedding.

Clarinda stayed with her friend ; indeed, another magnet attached her to this country :—Captain Herbert had lately returned from a cruize, in which he had proved very fortunate, as he had taken a valuable prize. He had long liked Clarinda, and he now solicited the honour of her hand, which she accepted ; and it was decided that the friends should enter the matrimonial state on the same day. Godolphin acceded to his sister's and Captain Herbert's wishes.

Major Dalrymple's return, and the preparations for the weddings, occasioned great bustle. Every moment was now dedicated either to purchasing paraphernalia or amusement : one mind and one heart seemed to direct the whole

party. Even the Ladies Davenport appeared to throw aside their accustomed pride and importance, that all might be harmony and happiness.

At length the day drew near when Angelina was to plight her faith at the altar. She had written all the occurrences which had taken place to Père St. Paul, and she was anxious to have his sanction to complete her happiness. Three mornings previous to her wedding day it arrived, and in perusing it her happiness vanished: he wrote to her in the most affectionate and impressive terms; congratulated her upon the discovery of her family and friends; and he trusted that her future prospects of happiness would be realized in her proposed union with Lord M——: at the same time he confessed that this proposed event had reconciled him to the death of his respected and valuable friend the Marquis of K——; “for,”

he continued, “ had our friend and benefactor been now alive, could your more than father, your beloved Mr. Moundfort, witness the child of his adoption, the daughter of his affection, unite herself to a heretick? I am convinced that moment would terminate his existence: such had been his fate. The result you know; and it was always his opinion that such marriages would be attended by misery and death.”

This letter made Angelina quite wretched: her mind had for some months been in such an agitated state, from the many eventful scenes which had taken place, that with shame she acknowledged that the pleasure she derived from being in Lord M——’s society had set her conscience to sleep, and she had never maturely deliberated on the miseries which would probably arise from their being of different reli-

gions ; but, as he had never mentioned the subject to her, she considered that he thought it of little consequence, and she consoled herself with the hope of converting him to the Catholic faith. If, from his affection for her, she could accomplish this desirable event, then her lamented and beloved Mr. Moundfort would from heaven contemplate with delight her actions, and to Père St. Paul she would instantly write to put up prayers for the conversion of Augustus, and surely the supplications of the holy brotherhood could not fail of prevailing.

She was in this contemplating mood when Clarinda came to request she would attend Lord G——, Augustus, her father, &c. to the Duke of B——, to hear the marriage settlement read, and to sign it. She ardently wished that this weighty point could have been settled without her appearance ; but as that,

she understood, was impossible, she accompanied Clarinda, as requested.

The marriage settlement was extremely liberal, and the younger children's provision much beyond what could have been expected, as the jointure settled on Angelina was entirely at her own disposal. She was extremely affected at this mark of confidence and generosity in Lord M——; but the following sentence was like a thunder-bolt on her devoted head :

“Whereas, the said Angelina Dalrymple is of the Roman Catholic persuasion; and as it is absolutely necessary, for the welfare of the children of this marriage, that they should be educated in the Protestant faith, being the established religion of this kingdom; it is therefore decided and agreed to by both parties, for the better security of this desirable event, that, at the age of

three years, the children should be taken from their mother, and placed under approved persons, to educate them in the established church of this kingdom : that the nomination of such guardians, all of whom must be Protestants, should be left to the judgment of the following persons, viz. Lord M——, his beloved spouse Angelina, Lord G——, and Major Dalrymple ; that, in case one of these parties should die, another should be immediately elected in their place ; and that the children shall, at no one period, from the age of three years till they arrive at maturity, reside under the same roof with their mother, unless sanctioned by the whole of the parties named as their guardians.”

While this part of the marriage settlement was reading, it is totally impossible to describe the various sensations which agitated Angelina ; at last they

became so powerful, that for a few minutes temporary insensibility buried them in oblivion.

Lord M—— expressed the greatest concern; his attention was even beyond what he had ever before shewn; and, when Miss Dalrymple was a little recovered, he desired, on no account, that, in her present weak state, she should hear the remainder of the marriage settlement.

With a determined resolution she replied,

“ Not only now, gentlemen, but never; I am decided not to become the wife of Lord M——! You have roused me from a dangerous lethargy, and have taught me my duty to my God, and to society!”

Every one was amazed at her behaviour. Lord M—— imputed it to the true cause, and assured her, on his knees, that every part of the marriage settle-

ment which she disapproved of should be omitted.

Lord G—— said, that, as a Peer of the Realm, he could not agree to that. Major Dalrymple replied, that he had no doubt that, after he had conversed with his daughter upon religious subjects, she would see the propriety of abiding by their wishes : he confessed that he once had been a Catholic, but that he had investigated the difference of that and the Protestant faith, and was thoroughly convinced of his error ; and he looked forward to the period when his beloved Angelina, his darling daughter, would meet his wishes on this momentous concern, as she had done on all others.

“ I am at this moment incapable of entering on a subject,” she replied, “ on which my happiness, both here, and hereafter, depends ; but, rest assured, I feel that my decision will be

such as will separate me for ever from those most dear to my affections."

She requested permission to retire. Lord M—— accompanied her home with Clarinda: he assured her that his happiness depended upon her solely, for he would comply with every wish of her heart; entreated that she would consent to marry him privately, without any settlement, and trust to his honour.

Angelina felt most grateful for his proposal, but she rejected it, saying that he should soon know her sentiments on the subject. She apologized for not asking him to stay dinner, but confessed that she wished to be alone; "for," she added, "it is only in solitude that the mind acquires strength."

Lord M—— departed with a heavy heart: he knew Angelina's character; that she possessed the greatest sweetness of disposition, but, at the same time, a firmness of mind that could encounter

any difficulties with fortitude; that she invariably acted from a principle of doing right; and that she could submit to every misery, sooner than do what she considered to be wrong.

CHAP. V.

Religion ! Providence ! an after state !
 Here is firm footing ; here is solid rock ;
 This can support us ; all is sea besides ;
 Sinks under us ; bestorms, and then devours.
 His hand the good man fastens on the skies,
 And bids earth roll, nor feels her idle whirl.

Religion ! thou the soul of happiness ;

* * * * *

Thou, my all !

My theme ! my inspiration, and my crown !
 My strength in age ! my rise in low estate !
 My soul's ambition, pleasure, wealth ! my world !
 My light in darkness ! and my life in death !
 My boast through time ! bliss through eternity !
 Eternity too short to speak thy praise,
 Or fathom thy profound of love to man.

MAJOR DALRYMPLE, on his return
 home, inquired for his daughter. Cla-

rinda informed him that she had shut herself into her apartment; that she had requested her duty to be presented to him, and to request that she might remain alone for the rest of the day.

Clarinda represented that it was advisable to comply with her wishes, for, after the great agitation which she had experienced, that quiet was absolutely necessary to prevent fatal consequences. The Major acceded with visible reluctance to this request, for he was anxious to convince his daughter of the superstition which accompanies the Catholic religion. He flattered himself that, after having seriously conversed with her upon the subject, her good sense would clearly prove to her that she was in an error: however, he postponed his proposed task till the next day, and, for the first time since his arrival in England, he felt unhappy.

Angelina implored the assistance of

her Heavenly Father to direct her in the arduous task she had to perform. In a few hours she felt composed, when she wrote to Augustus :—

“ My dear Friend,

“ I HAVE so long made you my confidant, and deposited with you all the secrets of my soul, that it will indeed be painful to me to discontinue such an agreeable correspondence. In the present important instance I am anxious, yet I dread, to disclose my heart to you. It is now nearly two years since I first saw you : I had seen others more comely ; but our dispositions suited, and I surrendered my heart to you, as I conceived that I read in your intelligent countenance that you possessed a soul the counterpart of my own. I flattered myself, that, if human events did not interrupt the affinity of

nature, and that if felicity was permitted in this life, we should assuredly be happy together. On my return home this morning, in all the agony of grief, I prostrated myself before my Maker, and, lifting up my supplicating hands to heaven; besought that Being enthroned on high to give me strength to render all my actions conformable to his divine will, and not permit a momentary error to triumph over my duty. Having finished this short but devout prayer, I felt myself confirmed in my virtuous resolution. I clearly perceived what sacrifice I must make to secure everlasting happiness. I had vainly flattered myself that I was religious, but I now found I had professed one which was external, which pacified my conscience; which was confined to outward forms; which induced me to believe in my God, while performing my

religious duties, without dedicating the rest of my time in contemplating the will of his divine Majesty.

“ I hitherto have only consulted my own happiness, without recollecting that nothing exists but through Him who directs the tendency of justice and the basis of virtue, and who has prepared a never-fading crown of glory as a reward for a life spent according to his will. Is it not *He* who proclaims to the guilty that their most secret crimes are detected? Is it not *He* who consoles the righteous in obscurity, by assuring them that their virtues have a witness? A heart, my dear Friend, impressed with these sublime truths, rises superior to the mean passions of human nature, and will cheerfully submit to every privation.

“ After what I have written, you will not be surprised at my determination of never uniting our fates: misery could

only be the result of such an union ; the difference in our religion would be a continual source of wretchedness to me. Think, Augustus, what my feelings would be, when I looked at my affectionate husband and beloved children, and felt convinced that they could not enter the kingdom of Heaven. That clause in the marriage settlement, I will candidly tell you, destroyed all my visionary happiness. I had anticipated that, from your great affection to me, I should have been the happy instrument in converting you to the Roman Catholic faith ; that my children would have been educated in that church : with this impression I would have ventured to have married you ; but the illusion is vanished, and I confess with it, at this moment, my happiness ! Rest assured that my determination is unalterable ; for, however my affection for you has blinded my reason, and raised hopes

which I now feel can never be realized, yet my duty to my Maker and to society will enable me to strictly perform my duty.

“ I am sensible that my father will be extremely displeased with me, and I have to entreat that you will have the kindness to reconcile him to my determination ; for I cannot for one moment suppose but you will see the propriety of my conduct, and cheerfully accede to my request. I shall never be happy unless you likewise enjoy happiness, and no real felicity can exist unless accompanied by religion. If you really love me, you will afford me the ecstatic consolation of finding that our hearts correspond in returning to a true sense of their religious duties, and that *your heart* is susceptible of a pure and disinterested friendship.

“ ANGELINA DALRYMPLE.”

After having dispatched this letter to Lord M——, Angelina felt her heart relieved as from a burthen. She knew that she had acted right ; that her beloved Mr. Moundfort and Père St. Paul would both, had they been with her, have approved of her conduct.

Such is the weakness of all mortal hope,
 So fickle is the nature of earthly things,
 That, ere they come into their aimed scope,
 They fall so short of our frail reckoning,
 And bring us bale and bitter sorrowings,
 Instead of comfort which we should embrace.

She loved Augustus with the fondest affection, but her love did not prevent her making use of her reason ; and she was convinced that he would be as miserable as herself if she married him ; for, although he had generously offered to omit any part of the marriage settlement to which she objected, yet she was certain that it would never have

been submitted to her attention, if he had not approved of it; she also knew that, if his children were educated in the Catholic faith, they would not be eligible to hold any lucrative situations under Government, nor could they take their seat in the House of Lords. She was angry with herself for having so long delayed the investigation which had now taken place, and, like a love-sick girl, buoyed herself up with hopes which could only be realized by her salvation.

Clarinda did not intrude upon her friend till a late hour, when Angelina imparted to her what she had written to Augustus: they conversed a considerable time on the subject; but Clarinda found that Miss Dalrymple acted from the principle of doing right, consequently that it was impossible to shake her resolution.

Angelina met her father at breakfast

with a composure which gave him hopes of her succeeding to his wishes. As soon as the repast was over, he requested to have some conversation with her. She readily assented, when he began upon the topic of religion: he recited to her how late it was in life before he had seriously considered the importance of the subject on which he now solicited her attention; he then mentioned the pains which Mr. Moundfort had taken to lead him into the path of righteousness.

“ For some time I followed,” he continued, “ his precepts, and was a Catholic; but, when I went to India, one of the chaplains of the British forces was in the ship in which I sailed. He was a gentleman of prepossessing manners, and we soon became inseparable companions: to him I am indebted for being now a Protestant. He pointed out to me the superstition of the Roman Catholic

persuasion; the folly of believing in purgatory.

“ Stop! stop! my dear father,” exclaimed Angelina, “and, in compassion to my weak understanding, permit me to remain in my ignorance. From it I shall derive all my happiness; for on what you call superstition I depend for my resurrection.”

The Major used every argument he could devise to prevail upon his daughter to allow some clergyman to talk with her, and to explain the Protestant religion. She was extremely averse to complying with his request, as she assured him it could be of no use, for she was perfectly acquainted with the faith he professed; but, to oblige him, she would attend to the instructions of any gentleman he pleased to appoint to so arduous a task.

Having gained this promise, the Ma-

major anticipated that every thing would soon meet his wishes: he repaired with this agreeable intelligence to Augustus, whom he found almost distracted; and, when the Major perused his daughter's letter, he felt a pang which it was difficult for him to conceal: but they both flattered themselves that, when she had conversed with Dr. Blair, that she would renounce a religion which appeared to them preposterous.

Augustus was so miserable, that he would most willingly give up every thing to possess his beloved Angelina, to whom he immediately wrote the following answer to her letter:—

“ YOUR letter, my beloved Angelina, glows with that sacred love of religion with which your breast is animated; but is it possible that you can imagine I can so far forget myself as to want arguments to excite me to

act justly ? and surely I cannot want to have them urged by you, whose wishes alone I would fly to obey. Rest assured, my dear girl, that I will be ever what you please ; I have therefore directed that the fatal marriage settlement shall be destroyed. Another will be ready for signing to-morrow, without any religious restrictions. Allow me only the felicity of calling you mine, and you shall then, my love, convert me to your faith, provided that you can convince me, that, in embracing it, I shall prove a better Christian ; but I hope I now possess that true faith which teaches me how to worship my God.

“ I have hitherto been a Protestant, whose maxims I consider are deduced from scripture and reason. I have always endeavoured to act conformable to truth and the glory of my Creator ; but I may be wrong, and most willingly, my dear Angelina, will I attend

to your sentiments, and, if possible, adopt them. I once witnessed the ceremony attending the death-bed of a Roman Catholic, and I candidly confess, my beloved friend, that the scene can never be effaced from my recollection. The dying sufferer was encompassed by objects the most terrifying; was compelled to undergo ceremonies which appeared to bury him alive; he seemed to die a hundred times by fear before he expired. Can you approve of this state of horror, in which your church delights to plunge the dying sinner? But I will write no more on this subject: we will converse on it; and I am convinced that you will never have reason to repent uniting yourself to your adoring

“ M——.”

This letter was calculated to make poor Angelina renounce her determina-

tion ; but she had just been visited by Dr. Blair ; her father had also been present at the conversation ; and he lamented to find that all the good clergyman could advance made no impression on his daughter ; and what particularly appeared to shock her ideas of duty and delicacy, was, that marriage was not a sacrament in the Protestant religion. She observed that she no longer wondered that in England Crim. Con. so frequently happened, for it was evident to her that marriage was only considered a civil obligation, and that the vow was only binding between the parties and was not what she considered a religious contract ; that this alone would determine her from never becoming the wife of a Protestant.

Her father, the Duke of B——, Lord and Lady G——, did all in their power to prevail upon her to fulfil her engagement with Lord M—— ; but she was

inexorable, and the continual anxiety of her mind became so alarming from her altered countenance, that Major Dalrymple determined to take her to Bath. He thought change of scene would be of service to her health, and he hoped eventually to prevail upon her to accept of Lord M——, as he knew that she did violence to her own feelings in rejecting him.

Augustus was so extremely miserable, that his relations would, to ensure his happiness, most willingly assent to every omission being made in the settlement which did not meet Miss Dalrymple's approbation.

Before Angelina went to Bath, Clarinda gave her hand to Captain Herbert, with whom she sailed to Ireland. The loss of her society was severely felt by Angelina, for she had now no female friend to whom she could divulge her secret sorrows.

Augustus wrote frequently to her, and she invariably answered his letters ; but he found all he could promise had not the least effect. She still persevered in assuring him that she should herself be miserable in being united to him, and that she was certain he would be the same. His despair became so great, that, to obtain her, he would willingly have become even a Jew ; but he knew that Miss Dalrymple was purity itself, and that she would despise the man who could impose on her, by professing a faith in which he could not believe.

Major Dalrymple was grieved to see his only, his darling child, in such a miserable situation. He met Mr. Godolphin in the pump room, and stated to him what had passed, all of which he had before been informed of by his sister. Godolphin expressed, what he really felt, sincere sorrow that Angelina was

not happy. The Major pressed him to return home with him ; but Godolphin, through delicacy, declined the invitation. They exchanged cards.

As soon as Miss Dalrymple heard of Godolphin being in Bath, she expressed a wish to see him. The Major immediately wrote a note from himself and daughter, requesting his company at dinner : he accepted of the invitation. The meeting between him and Angelina was at first rather awkward, but they soon recovered themselves, when she consulted him upon her concerns with the same ease she had been accustomed to do.

“ You must not, my sweet friend,” he said, “ ask my opinion respecting your marriage with Lord M——, for on that subject I must observe an inviolable silence. All I can say is, that I know not any other man so deserving of pos-

sessing such a treasure, and that any thing should prevent your being united is indeed most unfortunate.”

By degrees Angelina recovered her health and cheerfulness : she frequented the places of amusement, and her large fortune and personal attractions obtained her many admirers. Godolphin was a constant visitor at the Major's, but he behaved to his daughter with greater reserve than he had ever done. He was always attentive and polite, but he evidently took pains never to be alone with her.

Lord M—— heard that he was at Bath, and he immediately went there, as he concluded that Mr. Godolphin could only remain there on Angelina's account. He worked himself up to such a complete fit of jealousy, that, on his arrival, he immediately went in search of Godolphin, who met him with unfeigned delight ; but Lord M—— repulsed him,

by reproaching him with alienating Miss Dalrymple's affections from him ; that, by his Popish insinuations, he had destroyed his happiness ; and he demanded immediate satisfaction.

“ You are assuredly out of your senses, my Lord,” replied Godolphin ; “ but I am not so void of discretion as to fight with a madman ! I entreat you, inconsiderate man, to reflect upon my past conduct, and then, I am sure, it is impossible that you can accuse me of betraying you. At the same time, I am incapable of deception : I adore Miss Dalrymple, and she alone can make me happy ; but I would not be guilty of a dishonourable action, even to possess her ; and allow me to say, that you, my Lord, are the last man in the world who should accuse me of duplicity. I repeat, that I will not give you satisfaction ; for I will never again risk my own life, or that of any other person's.

I met Lord V——; but I have never reconciled myself to the action; and, had he died, misery would have been my companion through life.”

“ I do not, Sir,” replied Augustus, “ want any explanation of your past or present conduct. You will hear from me to-morrow; and, as you comply with my wishes, depends your future reception in society.”

Godolphin turned away. Expostulation he found, at present, could prove of no avail: he was fearful that Angelina should hear precipitately of Augustus’s arrival, and he went in search of Major Dalrymple, to prepare his daughter for such an interview. The Major was still anxious that Lord M—— should become his son-in-law: he desisted importuning her on the subject; but a visible satisfaction appeared in his countenance at hearing that his Lordship was in Bath.

Not so with Angelina: she loved Augustus, but reason and religion triumphed over her affection, from that strength of mind which directed all her actions. In performing her duty, she did a violence to her own feelings which embittered every moment of her existence. To be constantly in company with Lord M——, was indeed putting her to a severe trial. Her father espoused his cause, her only, her beloved parent; but Père St. Paul, by his excellent letters, kept a sort of balance in her heart. Had she consulted only her own happiness, she would have gone to St. Paul, and, by residing near him, profited by his forbearance and example to cheerfully submit to the sacrifice which she was doomed to make; but such a step would break her father's heart. She was his only comfort; in her he placed all his felicity; and she felt assured that, if she neglected fulfilling her duty to her pa-

rent, her prayers could never reach the Throne of Mercy.

The Major was anxiously expecting to see Lord M——, but he did not make his appearance, which rather astonished both him and his daughter.

Lord M——, the next day, sent a polite note to inquire after their health, which was answered in person by the Major. He found his Lordship in a dejection of spirits which alarmed him, and, finding that his company appeared to intrude upon his young friend, he took his leave, giving Augustus a pressing invitation to his house.

In truth, his Lordship had just sent a friend to deliver a challenge to Godolphin, and he was fearful of his returning, and probably mentioning the circumstance before the Major. This made him anxious that one visitor should depart before the arrival of the other. Godolphin sent no other reply, than that

he must have time to consider of his Lordship's note. The next day Godolphin wrote as follows to Lord M—— :

“ My Lord,

“ You tell me, as a man of *honour*, I must accept of your Lordship's challenge. I profess myself to be a man of *honour*, and therefore decline doing so, unless you can convince me that my ideas of *honour* are erroneous. I look upon honour, my Lord, as that cement of society which produces confidence between man and man. In honour is comprised every noble, generous, humane action ; in short, every virtue. The man who possesses *honour*, my Lord, has a jewel beyond all price : it is a gem that will purchase his happiness here, and secure it at that tribunal where those whose hands are washed in innocency will compass the altar. With

this impression, it is impossible for me to meet your Lordship in a hostile manner. The bullet which pierced your heart, would plunge a dagger into those of your venerable parents and your beloved Angelina's.

“As to what your Lordship pleases to say respecting my future reception in society, rest assured, that the man whose life is irreproachable, and betrays no other marks of cowardice, may refuse to stain his hands with blood, and will be the more respected for it. Honour depends not for its defence in the sword or pistol, but in a life of integrity and virtue ; a proof of superior courage than to brave death in a duel.

“I have the honour to remain

“Your Lordship's obedient, &c.

“CHARLES GODOLPHIN.”

Lord M—— read this letter repeatedly ; he shewed it to his friend who had

delivered the challenge, and it was his opinion that Augustus had been too precipitate, as, from the character he had heard of Mr. Godolphin, he believed him to be incapable of a dishonourable action. Augustus determined to call on the Major, as probably by his and Angelina's manners he would discover what terms Godolphin was on with them.

The meeting between him and Miss Dalrymple was distressing to both, and she would most gladly have been spared such a rencontre. In conversation, the Major asked him if he had seen Godolphin:

“ He is so much engaged,” he continued, “ that he seldom calls here : indeed, he is become quite punctilious ; for, unless he has a formal invitation, we seldom see him.”

Angelina said she heard frequently from Clarinda, who was settled in Ire-

land, and very happy, as Captain Herbert would remain some months at home, his ship being in dock.

Lord M—— became perfectly composed in his mind respecting Godolphin, and he now felt anxious to make every reparation in his power for his ungenerous behaviour to that gentleman. He wrote to him :—

“ Dear Sir,

“ THE injustice of my recent transaction with you is indeed, I feel, most injurious to my honour, and I am ready in any manner you think proper to point out to atone for it.

“ I have the truest sense of your generosity and greatness of mind. Your letter has convinced me, that he who properly estimates himself is insensible to the unjust reproach of others, and that nothing is less honourable than that honour about which the world in gene-

ral make such a noise. Restore me, my dear Sir, to your friendship, and I entreat you to pardon the impetuosity of,

“ Dear Sir,

“ Your’s very sincerely, &c.

“ M——.”

Godolphin answered this address to him with an invitation for Augustus to dine with him : they met, and parted as good friends as they had ever been. Godolphin studiously avoided mentioning either the Major or his daughter ; but as, when great persons are concerned, all their actions are made public, Lord M——’s valet knew that a challenge had been sent to Godolphin : he heard his master direct his coachman to drive to his house, and he concluded that a duel would be the consequence. He, in great secrecy, told Angelina’s maid of his suspicion, and she informed the Major, who arrived at Godolphin’s just

as the friends were preparing to attend the rooms.

The Major candidly told them the report circulated, and Lord M— — did justice to Godolphin in reciting the truth. The Major returned with Godolphin's letter in his pocket, to read at his leisure; but, when he entered the drawing-room, he found Angelina in tears. The servant had imprudently communicated to her the news of the duel, and Miss Dalrymple was in an agony of apprehension.

Her father soon relieved her anxiety, and, when she had read Godolphin's letter, her admiration of his character increased, and she ardently wished that she had never refused him. He was of the same religion as herself, and he would have married her when she was even an humble dependant.

From this time she took herself severely to task: she considered that she had

hitherto been in pursuit of what is never attained,—perfect happiness, a phantom which has no existence: she reflected that every hour pointed out the vanity of the pursuit. Many of her friends she saw dissipating their fortunes in procuring the most delicious viands, the most expensive wines, the most magnificent apparel, and splendid houses; yet, in the midst of all these luxuries, they were not happy. Others, again, expended their revenues in cultivating the arts, music, poetry, and the tribe of the elegant Muses were their constant companions; still they were in pursuit of *happiness*.

Hence, vain deluding joys,
 The brood of folly, without father bred,
 How little you bestead,
 Or fill the fixed mind with all your toys!
 Dwell in some idle brain,
 And fancies fond with gaudy shapes possess,
 As thick and numberless
 As the gay motes that people the sun-beams,
 Or likest hovering dreams.

She felt that, in repining at not becoming the wife of Augustus, she only half performed the sacrifice expected of her. Did she do her duty to her God and to society by giving herself up to lamenting her fate? Assuredly not. Reason was given to man to regulate his passions, and she had from her infancy been blessed with such examples and instructions as would render her doubly culpable, if she did not with cheerfulness meet the afflictions with which she was convinced her Heavenly Father visited her for wise purposes.

The next time Augustus called, she accosted him with the greatest composure, and inquired how long he intended remaining in Bath. He said that depended upon circumstances: his family were coming in a few days. "In short, my dearest Angelina, wherever you are, I must be; for you are the magnet which directs all my actions."

She replied, with a gravity which alarmed him,

“ Your following me, my Lord, is extremely painful to my feelings, because it raises hopes in my father which can never be realized; for I now solemnly vow that I never will be your wife. My own religion forbids such an alliance; and your's, Augustus, confirms me in my determination, how unequal would be the contract. The marriage vow I consider as a sacrament; you consider it as a civil promise. Only reflect upon the misery which has been entailed on those most dear to my affections by a breach of that civil contract, and then judge whether religion, duty, and reason, do not all combine to deter me from risking my happiness upon such a tottering foundation.”

Augustus said and did every thing in his power to alter her determination; but the only terms on which she would

consent to see him were, that he would never again speak to her on the subject of their marriage; and she told him, if he really consulted her happiness, he would at least for some time absent himself from her society; but this he would on no account consent to.

In this state she remained at Bath for some weeks; but, as soon as the faculty thought that Major Dalrymple had been sufficiently dosed with the waters, she entreated to return to London. The Duke of B—— had repeatedly written to express his wishes to see them in town, and Angelina candidly told her father that she never would marry without his consent, but that she never would unite herself with a Protestant. He was extremely concerned to find that she still remained so inexorable to his wishes, and he found that all perfect happiness was by anticipation; for it appeared to him that, if Angelina and

Augustus were united, he had not any thing else to wish on this side the grave.

Lord and Lady G—— and family paid great attention to the Major and his daughter; at the same time, although, for the sake of the Duke of B——'s connection and interest, they were desirous of the match, yet Angelina's being a Catholic was extremely objectionable in their opinions. When Lord M—— found that the Major was going to leave Bath, he became extremely dejected, and Major Dalrymple advised his absentsing himself for a few months; that he would plead his cause with his daughter; and that sometimes absence had a good effect.

Lord G—— had an estate in Wales, where his presence was necessary, and Augustus consented to accompany him. He took a very affecting leave of Angelina, who also was sorry to separate from a friend whom she sincerely valued;

but she felt the necessity of this measure, for, while he constantly remained near her, he would never get the better of an attachment which now really made her life miserable.

CHAP. VI.

One night, when balmy slumbers shed
Their peaceful poppies o'er my head,
My fancy led me to explore
A thousand scenes unknown before.
I saw a plain extended wide,
And crowds pour'd in from ev'ry side;
All seem'd to start a different game,
Yet all declar'd their views the same:
The choice was Happiness, I found;
But all, alas! enchanted ground.

ON the Major and his daughter's arrival in town, they immediately repaired to the Duke of B——: he received Angelina with truly parental affection, but he could not help expressing his sorrow that she disappointed all their views for her happiness by continuing to reject the suit of Lord M——.

Indeed, he observed that his Lordship's conduct had been so generous and noble in giving up every article in the settlement to which she had objected, that he thought it demanded gratitude from her, and that she would prove that she was not insensible to his love by accepting of him, and letting any male children which they might be blessed with be brought up in the Protestant religion.

Angelina was extremely affected at this address from the Duke of B——, and she remained silent; when the Major took his leave, saying he had some calls to make, and that he hoped the Duke's influence over his daughter would produce the most happy effect.

When her father had left them, Angelina opened her heart to the Duke.

“That your Grace should accuse me of ingratitude to Lord M——, does indeed wound my feelings. What a won-

derful alteration has taken place in my destiny within a short space of time ! What were my hopes and happiness are now, alas ! become the subject of my fears and misery ; and I at this moment experience that tenderness and sensibility too frequently prove the bitterest curse, instead of the choicest blessing, as their companion, in general, is disappointment, attended by all its vexatious consequences. At times I am almost tempted to think that a state of perfect misery were a thousand times preferable to the constant disquietude which I experience."

The Duke of B—— now became, in his turn, extremely affected at her manner : he promised her that, in future, he would never mention her marrying Lord M——, as he was now convinced that such an union would not be agreeable to her. He said all he wished was to see her happy, and he confessed he was in

hopes that such an alliance would have ensured her felicity ; that he looked to her as the last of his family, as the grand-daughter and adopted child of his beloved son ; and he was in hopes to have seen her settled in life before he quitted this world. When he mentioned his son, he wept.

Poor Angelina felt the full force of his sorrow, and she assured him that, with her ideas of religion, she would sooner suffer the most ignominious death than unite herself to a Protestant ; and when she stated to the Duke that one of her greatest objections arose from the marriage vow not being considered as a sacrament, he could not help acknowledging that the marriage contract was held in England by no means with that religious strictness which would ensure the happiness of the parties ; but he rallied Angelina upon the customs of foreign nations, where she considered the

vow taken at the altar more binding than in this country. Here, he said, that, if they broke the marriage vow, they still preserved some decency by endeavouring to conceal their amours. In France, every married lady had her gallant, and the complaisant husband tolerated such proceedings, by generally choosing his wife's *Cicisbeo* as his intimate friend.

Angelina acknowledged that too frequently, for the good of society, such conduct prevailed ; but still the sin was the same, and she hoped that the major part of those of her persuasion implicitly performed their duty in the married state. She implored the Duke to use his influence with her father, not only to her not uniting herself with Augustus, but she continued, with evident confusion, to sanction her uniting herself to another.

His Grace appeared perfectly amazed

at this request of Angelina's ; he scarcely could bring himself to think that he had heard right ; but she soon convinced him that he was not in any error : she stated to him the offer which Mr. Godolphin had made her ; the high opinion she entertained of him ; and she concluded by representing that, as long as she remained single, Lord M—— would have hopes of succeeding ; that her father, she was sure, when he came to think seriously on the match she proposed, could have no objection to it.

Mr. Godolphin was of a good family ; he had a large fortune ; and although she did not conceal her preference to Augustus, yet she was sure that she should be happy with Godolphin. She said she had for some time weighed the subject maturely, and she was decidedly convinced that she should be happier with Godolphin than with Lord M——, as, although his Lordship's affection for her was very great, yet she dreaded what

after marriage might prove, the effects of that impetuosity and jealousy of disposition which marked his character.

The Duke listened attentively to Miss Dalrymple, and assured her that, as he found it was impossible to prevail upon her to have Lord M——, he would do all in his power to promote her wishes with the Major; “But, my dear girl,” he continued, “your father is a man of the world, and Godolphin not having a title will be a great objection to his receiving him as a son-in-law.”

Angelina knew that her father was ambitious, but she felt assured that his affection for her would overcome his pride; and she was right in her calculation; for, in a few weeks, he consented to her espousing Godolphin. His being a Catholic induced him to accede to her wishes, as he found that she was resolved only to marry a person of her own religion, and Godolphin had only three between himself and an Earldom.

The next thing to be accomplished was to break this intelligence to Augustus, and also to Godolphin, who was still at Bath, and little in expectation that such happiness was destined for him. Angelina requested that Lord M—— might be kept in ignorance of the proceeding, as she herself would inform him of it when she thought proper. The Duke of B—— undertook to inform Godolphin of his good fortune, by requesting his immediate attendance in town. Why the Duke of B—— should desire to see him, Godolphin could not divine: he had purposely remained in Bath, to absent himself from Miss Dalrymple; and he resolved to return to it again, as soon as he knew the Duke's commands.

His Grace, to his great surprise, asked him if he had ever made an offer to Angelina, and whether he now retained the same affection for her. Godolphin candidly told the Duke his sentiments,

and, when he learnt that Miss Dalrymple consented to be his, it is impossible to describe his joy : at the same time he assured his Grace, that, although to possess Angelina would constitute his perfect happiness, yet he could not even wait upon her without the sanction of Lord M——, for his *honour* was concerned in this determination, and he was sure that Angelina would acquiesce in this request.

When the Duke of B—— informed her of what had passed, “ I expected this,” she said, “ from Godolphin, and I will immediately write to Augustus. I waited for this explanation with Godolphin to answer his last letter.”

“ It delights me, my dear friend, to see by your last letter that you are recovering that strength of mind which becomes the dignity of a man. Rest assured that it is in vain to encourage any passion which religion con-

demns, and our reason can never sanction what common sense must disapprove. Every thing which is inseparable from divine essence is God: it is from the contemplation of this divine model that we become refined and exalted, that we learn to despise low desires, and to rise superior to base inclinations. The heart possessing these sublime truths is superior to the mean passions of human nature, and is capable of submitting to any privations, in order to become more master of himself.

“ For some months, my dear friend, our lives have been a scene of unavailing sorrow. It depends upon you whether my future days are to pass in happiness or misery, and I now appeal to your generosity to decide my fate. Your's I can never be: I repeat that death, in its most formidable state, would be far preferable to me than uniting myself with a Protestant. The Duke of B——

and my father are anxious to see me settled: I am willing to make them happy. My Heavenly Father, the Father of Mankind, teaches me that I was permitted to breathe for nobler purposes than merely to follow my own inclinations; that, at the expence of my feelings, I must sacrifice the desires of my heart, and become an useful member in society.

“ The Duke of B—— has spoken to Mr. Godolphin, and he is willing to take me with all my imperfections, provided that your Lordship sanctions the union. His honour prevents his even calling on me till he hears from you. In justice to him, I must assure you that, in uniting myself with Godolphin, I do no violence to my feelings. I am convinced that in placing my happiness in his hands I shall never have reason to repent of my choice. Had I seen him before you, assuredly he would have been the object of my choice; but first impressions take

such deep hold, that it is difficult to remove them.

“ I am convinced, that to be violently in love is not necessary to ensure happiness in the married state. A conformity of disposition, honour, and virtue, are requisite; and the union will produce an affectionate attachment, which, if it does not amount to love, will be more permanent. The jealousy and continual inquietude which generally accompany love, the dread of separation, are certainly not suitable in a married life, which ought to be a state of peace and tranquillity. There is, I am certain, no passion which exposes us so such delusion as love : it is consumed by its own ardour, it glows in youth, but it decays with beauty, and is utterly extinguished by old age; and, frequently, those who were passionately fond of each other as lovers, hate each other when they become husband and wife.

“ Mr Godolphin is, in every respect, calculated to render me happy. It depends now on you alone whether I shall be so or not ; it depends on you whether you will retain my friendship, by releasing me from an engagement, which, if I fulfilled, must render me for ever miserable.

“ ANGELINA DALRYMPLE.”

Augustus shewed this letter to his father: they both lamented to see that Angelina was resolved never to marry Lord M——, and he felt jealousy at Godolphin being the happy man destined for her husband. For some days the conflict in his mind prevented him from giving a reply ; but Augustus’s failings, if he had any, were very few, and his good sense pointed out to him the injustice of preventing Angelina from marrying ; he therefore determined to release her from her engagements, and, as he could not bring himself to be near

the place where she was to become the wife of another, he prevailed upon his father to let him leave England.

Lord G—— was happy at this determination of his son's, as he thought that a few years' absence, and Angelina being the wife of another, would cure his son's partiality for her. Lord M—— wrote to Miss Dalrymple :

“ You never loved me, my dear Angelina, or you could not ask for the release you request. Take it, ungrateful girl ! and with it bury my happiness. Fool that I am, to adore one who no longer even esteems me. Religion, alas ! Do we not all worship the same God ? wherefore, then, should we not all be united here, as we hope to be hereafter ? Oh, faithless ! ought you ever to plight your vows to another ? Forgive me, dearest Angelina ! have pity on my distraction ! Hope is no more ; we must, you say, renounce each other :

we must part ! Religion has pronounced the decree, and you have promised your hand to Godolphin. Envied mortal !— Oh ! time never to be recalled, irrevocably past, source of everlasting sorrow ! My love ! my Angelina ! for ever farewell !

“ M——.”

Augustus's letter evidently proved the distraction of his mind, and Miss Dalrymple lamented that she should be compelled to give pain to one whom she so sincerely esteemed. Godolphin sympathised in her feelings : he knew that time and his attention would make her happy, and that Augustus would, after she was married, exert his good sense to overcome a passion which would then be criminal ; and he looked forward to the time when Lord M—— would return to his friends with only sentiments of friendship.

The Duke of B—— and Major Dal-

rymple thought that the sooner the wedding took place the better. Angelina made no objection to an early day being fixed ; but she requested to have it as private as possible, that Lord M—— might not be pained by perusing a splendid description of the ceremony in the public prints.

Clarinda came from Ireland to be present on the occasion, and Angelina appeared as happy as Godolphin. The only regret which she experienced was, that Augustus was unhappy. As to herself, she had, from the various events which she had encountered in life at an early period, learned the vanity of all human wishes : she did not expect to meet perfect happiness on earth, and she felt grateful to Providence for the many blessings she possessed.

After the wedding, they went to a country seat of the Duke's. Godolphin insisted upon the Major residing with them, and he had no reason

ever to lament his acquiescing with their request. Godolphin, by his affectionate attention to Angelina, made her soon remember Augustus only as a valuable friend. The Major contemplated the felicity of his children with delight. They heard from Lady G—— frequently, who communicated the pleasing intelligence that Augustus would soon be in England, and that he intended visiting his friends soon after his arrival.

Godolphin had called his son Augustus : at this attention his Lordship was much pleased. The boy was now three years of age, and a very promising child. Angelina anticipated the pleasure of introducing her two children to his Lordship, whom she now considered as an old friend. On his arrival in England, he wrote to Godolphin :

“ I AM this moment landed, my dear friend ; and, as soon as I have paid my duty to Lord and Lady G——,

I shall trespass on your hospitality by accepting of your kind invitation. I am impatient to prove to you and your charming wife, that I am now capable of passing my days in the bosom of calm friendship, secure from the tempest of passion. I am told, that, in your establishment, order, peace, and innocence reign throughout; that every thing is assembled which can constitute felicity, without pomp and idle retinue. I have always been of an opinion that true happiness is only to be found in a domestic, retired life; and I am convinced that those who cannot find pleasure at home, will seek it vain elsewhere. I am impatient to see your Augustus: I anticipate with the fondest expectation the happiness of assuring you and your Angelina, in person, that I am worthy to share in all your pleasures. Believe me to remain

“Your’s, very sincerely,

“M——.”

Angelina felt no other emotion when Lord M—— arrived than what every affectionate heart would experience at meeting with a friend who had been absent some years, and his Lordship now looked upon her as the wife of his friend. To see her, and not to admire her, was impossible, for her life was devoted to constitute the happiness of others. The same order prevailed in her family as she had formerly witnessed in Mr. Moundfort's: only six weeks in the year she passed in London, and she then left the country with reluctance. Her residence was only a short distance from town, but it was in a retired situation, and she had in the neighbourhood full opportunity of exercising her charitable disposition. Nor did she confine her donations only to Catholics, for she considered that every person in distress had claims on her purse; she therefore prevailed on Mrs. Scribble to reside in the village, and to become her almo-

ner, which office that lady accepted, as she was glad to retire from the noise and bustle of a world in which she had only experienced sorrow.

Godolphin was equally beloved with his wife, for he was a friend to the fatherless and widow. Lord M—— was happy in contemplating the happiness of Angelina, and he confessed, that, with her strict notions on religion, she could not have been happy with him. He staid some months with Godolphin, who endeavoured to persuade him to purchase a residence near them. The Duke of B—— even offered to give him a cottage of his at the end of the park, if he would remain amongst them.

Lord M—— said they would frequently be troubled with his company; but he felt that, if he resided in the neighbourhood, he should again fall in love with Angelina, for he even admired her more in her present maternal character than when Miss Dalrymple: still

he hoped that his regard for her now was only that of a sincere friend.

To the great regret of his family, he rejected every overture of marriage. The young Augustus was his constant companion, and all his affections appeared to be centered in that child. When he left his friends, they became quite lost without his society, for, independent of his amiable disposition, he was so full of anecdote, from the various countries which he had visited, that his conversation was a constant fund of entertainment. He promised to return soon ; but Godolphin was so impatient for his company, that he wrote to him :

“ How tedious, my dear Lord, is your absence ! Recollect that life is short. How many delightful moments we lose, when we have none to spare ! Death advances imperceptibly : only momentary bliss is in our possession, and we should not neglect to enjoy it.

Your absence becomes insupportable to us both. As we advance in years, our affections begin to centre in one point. Habit, and your kindness, have made your society necessary to our happiness, and we feel great reluctance that we should ever separate. Augustus wants his play-fellow ; we languish to see our friend. The Duke of B—— and the Major unite with myself and Angelina in every good wish ; and believe me to remain

“ Your’s most sincerely, &c.

“ CHARLES GODOLPHIN.”

Lord M—— had been six months absent, when he replied to Godolphin’s letter :

“ IN three days, my dear friend, I shall embrace you, and I now accept of the Duke of B——’s cottage. I think that I have scrutinised my feelings, and that I am perfectly cured of

every sensation, but friendship. The same image has still possession of my heart ; but her dominion there is worthy of herself : I value her as the wife of my friend—Godolphin. I shall join you in all the sincerity of an honest heart ; and in the midst of my friends anticipate the delightful expectation of a lasting reunion. Your agreeable and affectionate society will give charms to insipid life. I shall find business, labour, and retirement, become amusing by the art of managing them. When the head and heart are sound, they know how to take delight in vulgar employments. I am convinced that all indolent persons who are diverted with so much difficulty are indebted for their disgusts to their vices, as their taste for pleasure is buried with their virtue.

“ Your Augustus, my friend, you must entrust to my care : educating him will be my greatest pleasure. I adopt him as my son, for I shall never marry.

The pangs which a hopeless passion occasioned have rendered my heart invulnerable. I suffered so much from love, that

O Fermite 'l mio tempo a mezzio gli animi.

I confess that, formerly, I thought marriage a contract which every one made at the time of their birth with their country, but I have long since altered my opinion. I consider now the obligation to marriage depends chiefly on the situation we hold in society. To encourage celibacy in the common people, would assuredly militate against the wealth of the nation, as manufacturers, husbandmen, and many others, are really serviceable to the state; but the increase of number amongst the rich, which at best are a dead weight in the community, I conceive only tends to the pernicious effects of depopulation. We can always find masters enough, and

kingdoms will sooner want labourers than nobles. With these sentiments, I consider myself at full liberty to indulge my own inclinations on this subject.

“ My heart has received a shock from the tender passion, which can never be repaired. My future days I shall pass in the bosom of friendship; therefore I repeat, that I accept of his Grace’s offer. The cottage will soon be turned into a pavilion. Angelina will teach me how to dispose of my fortune. Herbert and Clarinda have promised to pass great part of their time with me.

“ Remember me affectionately to all your family.

“ I remain

“ Your’s sincerely, &c.

“ M——.”

THE END.



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